

The Division of Health Care Policy and Research would like to commend Dr. Sayuri Kelly and her team for their excellent work on their CMS funded Long Term Care Survey Support project. The CMS Contracting Officer Representative recently reached out to our division head with the following:

Good afternoon, Dr. Gritz:

I am the Contracting Officer Representative for a project that is under the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. I just wanted to take a few minutes to recognize a few individuals in your group who have consistently gone above and beyond what we have asked-Sayuri Kelly, Audrey Sunderraj, and Luanne Heglie. Most recently, the three have assisted CMS with some onsite reviews of nursing homes, to assure that they are meeting new requirements related to COVID-19 vaccination of health care personnel, a high-priority project for the Administration. My colleagues and I have seen how Sayuri and her staff have quickly pivoted their work to prioritize these surveys, perform these surveys with incredible efficiency, and provide information to CMS about our protocols.

Your staff have also worked with CMS for years on the nursing home survey process. Their reviews and draft materials are always thorough and thoughtful. The depth of their knowledge is incredible. It amazes me when they are able to develop options and recommendations for us quickly that are well supported by data.

I am moving on to a new role in CMS, but I did want to express my appreciation for these individuals...I will miss working with them!

Elaine Soong

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
Division of Nursing Homes/Quality, Safety & Oversight Group  
7500 Security Boulevard  
Baltimore, MD 21244  
Work-(410)786-6735, Fax-(443)380-5564

Congratulations to this team for their hard work and commitment to excellence!