

# Area Agencies on Aging

## In Action

May 2007

Jerry was a drafting designer when, in 1973, he sustained a brain injury in a motor vehicle accident. Seizures, cognitive problems, and mobility issues resulted. With help from his mother, he continued to work and to live alone until 1991. As his condition worsened, he applied for disability retirement. With his mother as his caregiver, he continued to live independently.



By 2004, frequent falls caused his hospitalization and placement in a nursing home, where Jerry spent the next three years. On July 28, 2007, with the help of the Area Agency on Aging District 7, Inc, Jerry became the first Assisted Living Medicaid Waiver consumer at Jenkins Memorial, an assisted living facility.

Now, Jerry can transfer himself, go outside, travel throughout the facility, and work out in the therapy room every day. While his elderly mother cannot provide the amount of support that he would need to live independently in the community, she has resumed active caregiving for him. But, he worries about his new friends. "Some of the Assisted Living residents are running out of savings and will be forced to move to the nursing home, even though they don't need that level of care yet. That was me in 2004," he said.

The cost of Jerry's care is much less than it was in the nursing facility, while his quality of life is much better. In the nursing home, after Jerry paid his monthly liability payment, the average Medicaid cost was approximately \$3,690 a month. Now, after Jerry pays his monthly liability payment, the Assisted Living Waiver Medicaid cost is \$1,285 a month, a savings of \$2,405 each month.

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