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Subject: FW: care facilities access for persons with sensory impairments
Date: January 17, 2020 at 4:32 PM
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Sent: Friday, January 17, 2020 4:13 PM
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Cc: 'Lydia Missaelides' <lydia@caads.org>
Subject: care facilities access for persons with sensory impairments

Skilled nursing and intermediate care facilities provide an array of services in order to enable residents to live as independently as possible. These services include medical-related services, recreation services, both within and away from the facility, meals, social interaction and more. Isolation issues are a serious concern for all residents, but even more so for those with vision and hearing impairments. In large part, these problems occur because of the failure to make services fully accessible to those individuals.

For those who are deaf and hard-of-hearing, communication devices usable by those with hearing impairments, staff who can communicate in ASL, emergency procedures that include methods accessible to persons with hearing impairments, and other methodologies for meeting access needs can make the difference between isolation and integration. For those with vision loss, information on menus, daily activities, among other things, in large print or other formats, orientation and mobility instruction that enables these individuals to navigate the facility successfully, and assistive technology that allow communication with others outside the facility are vital components to independence.