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## **CARF Grants First Accreditation of Supported Living Program to Innovative Services, Inc., Using CMI's Simply Home Customized Devices & Reporting**

The Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) International accredited the first technology-based supported living program on October 31, 2007; the recipient, Innovative Services, Inc., of Green Bay, Wisconsin, received a three-year accreditation for its supported living program that uses Community Management Initiative, Inc.'s (CMI) Simply Home customized remote monitoring and data reporting system. CARF's Employment and Community Services Division accredited the following aspects of the Simply Home system:

- Assistive technology services: community assistive technology, which includes the use of data gathering and reporting devices
- Community services: supported living, which covers all facets of service used to enable a consumer to live with greater independence
- Community services: community integration, which covers the use of assistive technology and services to enable consumers to receive support as-needed in their daily living, recreation, transportation. A case manager or caregiver can set a global positioning system device to send a location alert if the consumer deviates from normal patterns, which might indicate that the consumer is lost.
- Employment services: organizational employment services, which covers the use of assistive technology to support continued employment, such as a device that reports when a person wakes up, leaves their home, and arrives at work. A case manager can monitor the data and intervene if a problem develops.

Three years ago, Innovative Services, a non-profit developmental disabilities service provider, started using assistive technology after nearby Intermediate Care Facilities (ICFs) for people with mental retardation wanted to transition consumers from the ICFs to community placements. Case managers sought to develop care plans for the individuals that maximized each person's available care dollars. Innovative Services board member Scott Spear said that the organization did not want to create "mini community-based ICFs" for the people; instead, Innovative Services wanted to create ways for the people to live as independently as possible. Innovative Services provides supported home care, adult family homes with 24-hour supervision, community-based residential facility care, and vocational training services, throughout Wisconsin.

Mr. Spear said that Innovative Services began by asking consumers, their families, and their

caregivers what each person needed to live independently. With the help of their partner, CMI, they used Simply Home systems and developed remote devices to create notifications while also gathering data, such as number of times a toothbrush is picked up, or perform remote safety functions, such as turning off a microwave after three minutes after cooking popcorn. The technology is individualized and adapted for each persons care plan as well as the data collection and notification needs of an individual's caregivers and case managers. He emphasized that the community assistive technology concept is more than alarms and monitoring; it relies on:

- Customizing devices to enable people to safely make individual choices
- Enabling family or caregiver support only when needed while not seeming intrusive to the people being supported
- Giving caregivers and case managers the information they need to assess an individual's health and safety to prevent emergencies

Innovative Services and CMI approached CARF to see if the Simply Home system concept could be accredited. The use and end result of the technology and reporting services fit best into the existing goals of the Employment and Community Services Division. After about two years of review, CARF agreed — the combination of customizable device functions and reports of the Simply Home system created high quality supported living services for consumers.

Simply Home is a subsidiary of CMI, which produces the various data gathering and programmable remote sensing devices. CMI has Simply Home systems in 12 states and is expanding into 8 more states. The system is available to state agencies to support Medicaid-eligible consumers with disabilities who seek to live independently and to individual families to support family members.

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