

ASSISTANCE FOR SENIORS IN GROUP CARE HOMES

The Division for Aging Services is promoting a program funded with Medicaid dollars enabling persons aged 65 or older to leave the nursing home and live in a more family-oriented group care home.

"Some nursing care patients can live more independently in a group care home with support services we are now able to pay for," said Suzanne Ernst, Aging Services Administrator.

The Nevada Medicaid program reimburses group care facility employees or other contracted individuals to assist the elder group care resident with their personal care i.e., bathing, grooming and dressing. Aging Services social workers assist the patient with the move to group care and monitor the individual's progress.

The Welfare Division and Aging Services want this program to be a success since it improves client services and saves taxpayer dollars," said Myla C. Florence, Welfare Division Administrator.

The benefits of this program are two-fold. One of the major benefits is the program allows seniors to reside in a more home-like setting.

Another benefit is the cost of supporting a senior in a group home is far less than the cost of a nursing home. The average nursing home cost per person per month is \$1,713 compared to \$1,025 in a group care home.

Any senior residing in a nursing home and interested in this program should contact the Division of Aging Services at 688-2964 in Reno or 486-3545 in LV.

NEW HELP NOW AVAILABLE FOR DISABLED ADULTS AND CHILDREN

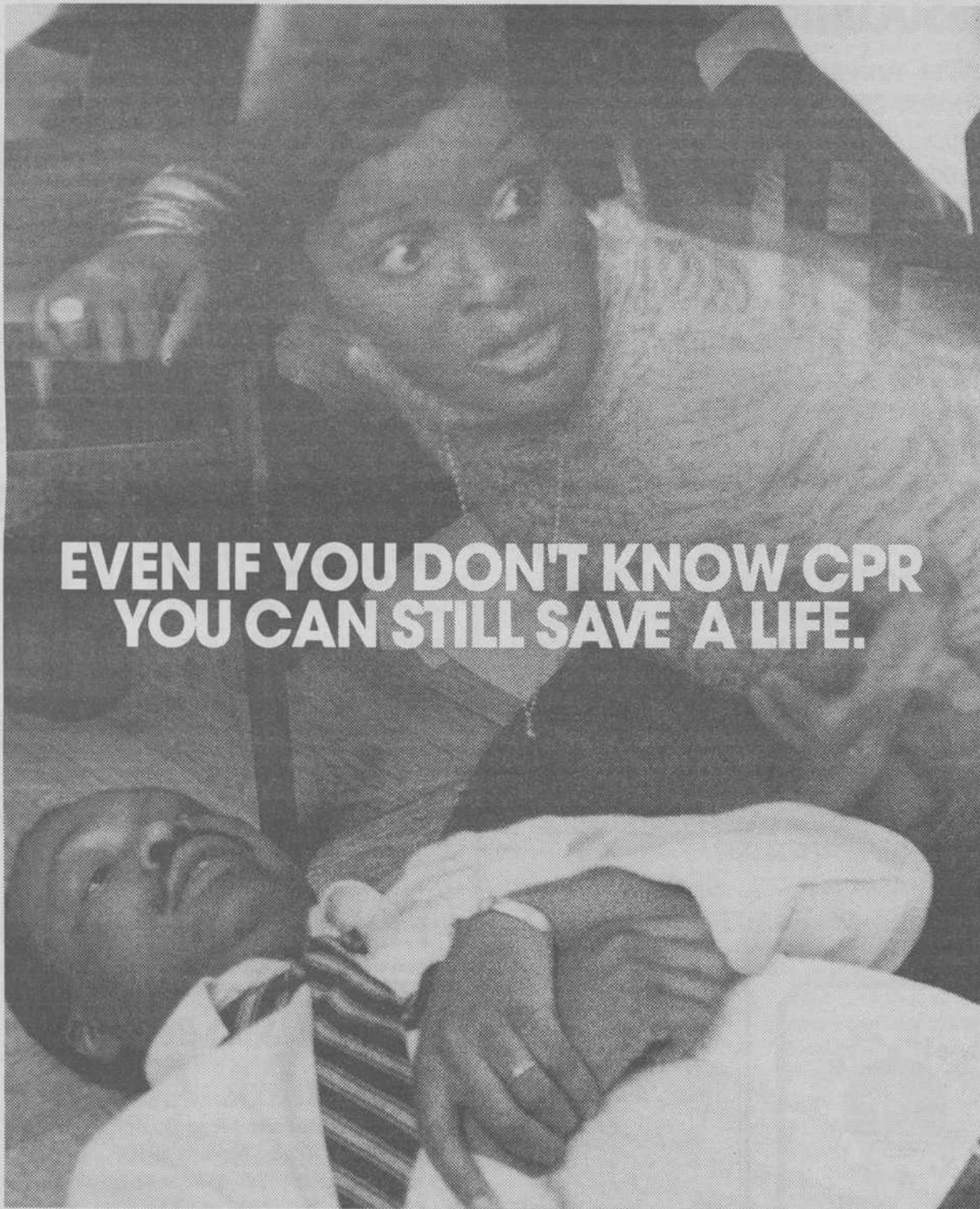
Adults and children with disabilities now have the opportunity to see, use and learn assistive devices before they buy them to determine which are the most appropriate and effective. Whether it's an augmentative communication device, an environmental control switch, an adaptive computer software program or some other life enhancing product, The Assistive Technology Center at Nevada Community Enrichment Program (NCEP) provides the information, demonstration and training necessary to help empower individuals with disabilities at home, at work, at school and at play. The Center also maintains a product information database on the he latest in rehabilitation and assistive technology.

Rehabilitation engineering services are available and pre-service financial and resource planning, diagnosis and assessment, technology matching, self-advocacy training, family support services and an adaptive toy lending library are also offered.

The Assistive Technology Center at NCEP is a non-profit organization. For more information, please contact the Center at 259-0789

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