GaMap2Care
Department of Community Health

GaMap2Care provides consumers and other healthcare stakeholders with the ability to search for licensed healthcare facilities throughout Georgia, access their inspection reports, learn about available services and more with the click of a computer mouse. GaMap2Care, www.gamap2care.info, is Georgia's user friendly search, see and select tool for making more informed decisions when choosing a healthcare facility.

About the Situation

The Department of Community Health (DCH) conducts inspections and gathers extensive data about state-regulated facilities in Georgia, such as personal care homes, nursing homes and hospitals. How could DCH make it quick and easy for consumers to access and organize the vast amounts of information contained in its databases so they could make better informed decisions about where to place their loved ones for care? At the same time, Department of Community Health managers needed an easy-to-use tool to help schedule inspections of healthcare facilities. Still facing budget constraints, they saw an opportunity to reduce travel costs by assigning surveyors to facilities near the surveyor's home.

Innovative Solution

DCH created GaMap2Care – a web-based, interactive geomapping tool – as one of the first of its kind in the nation. With separate components for the public and for DCH staff, GaMap2Care embeds Google maps in the website and connects the maps to its database of more than 7,000 licensed healthcare facilities. Consumers can create a map of particular types of healthcare facilities in a designated area. They can then select a facility on the map to obtain detailed information, including licensed capacity, services offered, and the administrator's name and contact information. They can download state inspection reports for the last two years and view street-level photographs of the facility.

While enhancing transparency and public access to important information about a wide range of healthcare facilities, GaMap2Care also helps DCH improve its operational efficiency. DCH managers routinely use it when selecting surveyors for facility inspections. Surveyors are home-based and live throughout Georgia, and GaMap2Care enables managers to make assignments based in part on a surveyor's proximity to facilities. As a result, travel times and associated costs are reduced. In case of a natural disaster or other emergency, it supports state officials in their efforts to identify and notify facilities about the possible relocation of patients and residents.

GaMap2Care demonstrates how the integration of web-based services with large state databases can achieve significant benefits for both consumers and state government.