Oversight Committee Testimony

On September 23rd your Circle of Care membership sent Executive Director Margaret Farley to the state house to testify before the Robert G. (Bob) Bethell Joint Committee on Home and Community Based Services and KanCare Oversight. The committee is responsible for overseeing long-term care services including home and community based services (HCBS), the Program for All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE), and the state Medicaid program (KanCare). In the testimony your gift made possible, Margaret called upon committee members to ensure:

- nurse aide training across all settings in long term care is consistent and reflects the needs of vulnerable residents
- better training, benefits and career paths for those who choose a profession in nursing
- a minimum of 4.13 hours of care per resident per day
- state-only licensed facilities abide by stronger federal regulations and surveys which protect the health, safety, rights, and welfare of residents
- support next session for HB 2004 restoring equality of appeal rights for residents whether they reside in nursing facilities or assisted living type facilities
- adequate resources for all state inspections of care homes, especially to address the present 24-month survey interval for assisted living type facilities which puts residents at risk

Read the full testimony

KABC's Annual Caregiver Training

Your September membership trained 52 people at our annual caregiver training on September 10th. Executive Director Margaret Farley spoke to the caregivers about the differences between assisted living care facilities and nursing facilities. She also discussed “Charlie’s Bill” which addresses the right to appeal an involuntary discharge from assisted living care facilities. State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Camille Russell presented on topics such as resident rights in assisted living facilities, how to advocate for yourself or on behalf of a loved-one, and how she and regional ombudsmen can help resolve conflicts in care facilities. Don't worry, if you missed the training we have the Ombudsman presentation recorded on our YouTube channel, check it out below.
Medicaid & Memory Care: Clearing The Fog

Your September gift helped 95 Kansans like Valerie, who needed help finding a new care home for her mom after the assisted living facility she'd lived in for years refused to take her back following a hospitalization. The facility listed her mother's advancing dementia as a reason they could no longer care for her, coupled with her dwindling resources to pay privately for care. Instead staff advised Valerie to look at "memory care facilities" that accept Medicaid. Thanks to your gift, KABC advised Valerie to first get an assessment from the hospital or her mother's physician to determine the proper level of care. Furthermore, KABC explained to Valerie that "memory care" is not a licensure, only a service offered if the facility claims it is capable of caring for a resident with dementia. In the state of Kansas facilities that offer "memory care" as a service are not required to provide any different care than other long-term care facilities, nor train the staff who work with these residents more than the minimum of 2 hours per year for all long-term care facility staff. To help in her search for quality memory care, KABC sent Valerie a list of different considerations and questions she could ask facilities that help determine the quality of care they offered. Then KABC provided Valerie with a list of area facilities that offered memory care services, and which were Medicaid/Medicare certified so that her mother would not have to move again if she needed to switch to Medicaid to pay for care in the future.

Thank You For Making Elder Care Better Every Day!

Our Contact Information

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