The Kansas Experience

Meet Dan Goodman, KABC Executive Director

I'm very excited about joining KABC, which is well known for its advocacy for older Kansans in need of long-term care supports and services.

KABC will continue its strong tradition of being a trusted organization for older Kansans while also looking to broaden our scope and increase the awareness of aging needs in Kansas. I look forward to engaging with you. I will be more effective at achieving our mission having heard from you. Call me at the KABC office, 800-525-1782 or email me: dangoodman@kabc.org

Advocacy In Action

The 2022 regular Kansas legislative session closed with "first adjournment" on April 1st. Legislators will return April 25th to wrap up work on bills and budget.

**HB 2004/Right to Appeal Eviction from Assisted Facilities was KABC's highest priority this year.** The House Children & Seniors Committee passed it favorably in February. House Leadership failed to protect older Kansans by not bringing this bill for a vote.

**SB 453/Weakened Training for Certified Nurse Aides. KABC strongly opposed this bill** because it lowers the competence of those who train nurse aides and it reduces the training required before aides can provide...
hands-on care to older adults in facilities. The bill passed both houses and will go to the Governor for approval or veto. If it is signed into law, KABC will continue to advocate for safe training standards during the rules and regulations drafting process which KDADS is responsible for.

**HB 2463/Prohibits changes to KanCare Medicaid until 2024.** New contracts with program updates were to have been negotiated for 2023. The bill didn't move forward, but the bill's concept was incorporated into a budget proviso - side stepping the debate and floor vote required for a bill. The upshot is that if approved by the Governor, any changes to the KanCare Medicaid program will have to be approved by a legislative committee, rather than through KDHE as is currently done.

**Budget:**
KABC strongly supported Gov. Kelly’s recommendation to add $838,600 for an additional eight health facility surveyor/inspector positions within the Kansas Department on Aging and Disability Services budget.

KABC supported the $11.8 million increase in rates for Home and Community Based Personal Care Services/HCBS including for Frail Elderly waiver providers.  

**Read More Here**

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**Resources**

**April is Parkinson's Awareness Month.**
In 1998 when actor Michael J. Fox revealed he has Parkinson’s disease, it came as a shock to think of someone so young - age 29 - being affected.

For some, a Parkinson’s diagnosis comes as a relief; an explanation for previously unexplained symptoms. Others may be stunned, struggling with what the future may look like. The Parkinson Foundation has many resources available on their website to help those recently diagnosed or who have been living with the disease.

In Kansas, check out The University of Kansas Parkinson's Disease & Movement Disorder Center website.

**April is also Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month.**
"You prepare for a phone call your mother has passed. You don't prepare for a phone call that your mother has been raped." In 2017, that statement led a CNN story about sexual assault in nursing homes.

When entering a residential care facility, the last thing anyone should be concerned about is being sexually assaulted by a staff member or resident. It can happen anywhere, even in Kansas.

**5 Signs of Elderly Sexual Abuse in Nursing Homes**
You can help identify abuse of your loved one by looking for one or all of these indicators that elderly sexual abuse may have occurred:

- Bruises in regions that include genital areas, thighs and breasts
- Torn or stained clothing, as well as the presence of blood
- Depression, withdrawn, anxiety, fear or agitation – particularly towards a caregiver
- Unexplained STDs, infections and vaginal bleeding
- Difficulty in walking, sleeping or sitting

There may be other signs of sexual abuse; pay attention to any sudden physical or emotional changes, these are reasons to start a conversation about the care your loved one is receiving. Abusers often prey on care facility residents because they are “vulnerable” and “easy targets.” Residents are often physically or mentally disabled patients, and may struggle to physically to defend themselves and be intimidated to speak out. Women and patients older in age are at a higher risk for abuse, as well as those suffering from dementia and Alzheimer's.
If you suspect your loved-one is a victim of abuse, call 911 immediately to report it. Report to the Kansas Dept. for Aging & Disability Services hotline: 800-842-0078. Tell the administrator and the director of nursing at the facility.

Study supports shifting patients away from SNFs to at-home care

Seniors recently discharged from the hospital should consider having skilled-level care at home instead of at a facility, researchers said after a new pilot study found that patients have better experiences with lower costs under the model. Their findings were published March 10th in the Journal of Applied Gerontology by a Brigham and Women’s Hospital-led investigative team. The group researched whether the cost of care and safety and experience of patients could be improved by shifting the site of care to the patient’s home.

If you’re considering in-home care, KABC’s booklet "The Care You Want" may be a good resource for you. Available online and in print. Call or email our office to get your copy free of charge.

COVID-19 Resources

Update on Visitation in Nursing Facilities

The Centers for Medicare/Medicaid Services (CMS) is committed to continuing to take critical steps to ensure America’s healthcare facilities are prepared to respond to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Public Health Emergency (PHE). On March 10, 2022 CMS issued new guidance for visitation in nursing homes including the impact of COVID-19 vaccination.

- Visitation is allowed for all residents at all times.
- Replaced the term “vaccinated” with “up-to-date with all recommended COVID-19 vaccine doses” and deleted “unvaccinated.”
- Updated visitor screening and quarantine criteria.

If you are still having problems visiting your loved-one in a long-term care facility, call KABC, 800-585-1782, the Long-Term Care Ombudsman, 877-662-8362, and report it to the Kansas Dept. for Aging & Disabilities hotline: 800-842-0078.

Recent Events

Rebuilding Trust ~ Partnering for Improved Outcomes

How do adult care homes rebuild trust with residents and families after the damage of COVID and how can you get the ball rolling?

Click the picture below to learn from this presentation by KFMC, KABC and others.

Upcoming Event
The ART of the WISH

“What would you wish for the world?” That’s the question two Kansas City artists, Andy Newcom and Marn Jensen, asked more than 200 older Americans. From their conversations, they created ART of the WISH, a 50-piece exhibition depicting those wishes with accompanying stories about the wish and the wishers.

Visitors can attend the exhibit for free anytime the gallery is open through May 27, 1:00 to 5:00 pm Thursday, Friday or Saturday.

Learn more here.

KABC hosts free trainings year round. If you’re interested in KABC presenting to your group, email info@kabc.org or call the office at 800-525-1782

DONATE NOW

Support KABC At No Cost!

Dillons/Kroger

Before your next shopping trip to Dillon’s, be sure to designate KABC as your Community Rewards Charity to improve elder care as you shop. Click the photo to sign up and designate KABC as your charity of choice!

Amazon Smile

Did you know that Amazon donates a percentage of each item purchased through their website to a charity of your choice? Before you click that “Buy Now” button, designate KABC as your Amazon Smile charity and better elder care with every purchase!

Don’t Forget The App!

Amazon recently added the Smile charity feature to their mobile app too! Here’s how to activate it on your phone:

1. Open the Amazon app on your phone
2. Select the main menu (=) & tap on "AmazonSmile" within Programs & Features
3. Select "Kansas Advocates For Better Care" as your charity

4. Follow the on-screen instructions to activate AmazonSmile in the mobile app

KABC's Privacy Policy

Kansas Advocates for Better Care (KABC) protects your privacy.

KABC maintains password-protected computerized data files regarding financial support. We do not sell or share our membership list or member financial information with any other agency, and will not divulge any personal information about any members, contributors or contacts without express written permission.

About Kansas Advocates for Better Care

KABC is a charitable 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose mission is to improve long-term care for older adults in Kansas. Our mission is achieved through public policy advocacy, trainings and education, and by providing guidance & support to older adults and their families who need help with long-term care issues.

Our Contact Information

* Organization Name*
* Organization Address*
* Organization Phone*
* Organization Website*

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