Keeping Up With Care ~ March 2022

The Kansas Experience

Person-Centered Care in Facilities

In 2016, the Centers for Medicare/Medicaid Services finalized improvements in care, safety, and consumer protections for long-term care facility residents. Read the CMS statement.

KABC's Mitzi McFatrich recently spoke with Kansas Long-Term Care Ombudsman Camille Russell about this important rule and how it can benefit older adults. (Click on Camille's photo to watch the interview.)

If you have questions or concerns, the LTC Ombudsman can help. Call toll-free: 877-662-8362 or visit their website.

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.

There is an informal reception on March 24, which is free. People can meet with the artists at that time. Visitors can attend the exhibit for free anytime the gallery is open from March 4 – May 27, 1:00 to 5:00 pm Thursday, Friday or Saturday. Learn more here.

Advocacy In Action
“Turnaround,” the official half-way point of the 2022 legislative session was Feb. 24. This is the deadline for bills to be passed by the House or Senate, whichever it started in.

**HB 2004 / Creating the Right for a Resident to Appeal Evictions from Assisted Living Facilities.**
Your action can help us make sure that older Kansans aren't wrongfully evicted without an appeal.

HB 2004 is KABC’s highest legislative priority this year. The bill creates the right for residents of assisted living, residential health care or home plus facilities to appeal a wrongful eviction. We appreciate the support of the House Committee on Children and Seniors in voting to move the bill to the House floor for a vote.

Also known as "Charlie's Bill," HB 2004 was introduced by Rep. Highland on behalf of Rachel Imthurn, Maple Hill. Her late husband, Charles ("Charlie") Imthurn was involuntarily evicted in 2011. Charlie died from the trauma of being transferred nine days later. For more than 10 years, Mrs. Imthurn has been trying to make sure other families have the right to appeal involuntary evictions from assisted living facilities.

Older adults living in a nursing home or their own home in the community can appeal an eviction - Only those in assisted settings are denied this fundamental right and protection.

**Please contact your state representative and ask for their support to bring HB 2004/Charlie’s Bill to the House floor for a vote.** Find your state representative and contact information at [www.openstates.org/](http://www.openstates.org/)

**SB 453 / Weakens Training Requirements for Nurse Aides Working in Nursing Homes and Assisted facilities**

KABC strongly opposes SB 453, an attempt by the nursing home industry to weaken training requirements for Certified Nurse Aides/CNA or Medication Aides/CMA. The bill would also lower the qualifications of the nurses who now teach the aides who provide most of the daily hands-on care for frail elders who live in nursing homes and assisted facilities. It is wrongly being promoted as a measure to address the workforce shortage among nursing home staff.

It would change the level of education and experience of the instructors from a Registered Nurse (RN) with two years of education and additional nursing experience to a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) with one year of education and nursing experience.

KABC is working with the Kansas State Nurses Association to oppose this harmful and dangerous piece of legislation. Let your representatives hear from you.

**There is a hearing scheduled in House Health on Tuesday, March 8th at 1:30 p.m. [Here’s a link to members of the committee and their contacts.](#)**

[Read More on KABC's actions on pending legislation.](#)

**Protecting Seniors and People with Disabilities by Improving Safety and Quality of Care in the Nation’s Nursing Homes**

On February 28th, President Biden announced reforms including sufficient and competent staff to provide high quality care to nursing home residents; to hold poor performing nursing homes accountable and improve or lose taxpayer dollars; and better inform the public about nursing home conditions. [Read the fact sheet here.](#)

**Resources**
25 Nursing Home Problems and How to Resolve Them

The Justice in Aging has an updated version of their guide: 25 Nursing Home Problems and How to Resolve Them.

Moving into and living in a nursing facility is a life-altering event. You want things to go smoothly, and feel that your loved-one should have and deserves the very best possible care in their new 'home.' That's the way it should be. The sad truth is, that's not always the case. Problems can arise. Staff members may not know all they should about caring for your loved-one, opening the door for negligence or poor quality care.

The 25 problems identified in the guide are common across the country and in all types of nursing homes. The guide gives residents, family members, friends, and other advocates the tools they need to identify and solve the problems residents most frequently face.

As always, if you encounter problems that you cannot resolve on your own with the facility, contact KABC for guidance, 800-525-1782 or info@kabc.org

The Kansas Long-Term Care Ombudsman’s office is also available to help: 877-662-8362

Research on Delirium

Did you know... When adults are discharged from the hospital, if they have delirium their odds of returning home are slimmer. Delirium was associated with increased odds of discharge to a setting such as a nursing home or rehab hospital. It was also associated with higher rates of death, apart from the person’s sex or age. The risk of death was higher even when the person did not have other existing medical conditions.

“Caretakers are advised to apply preventive strategies in patients at risk, for example, avoiding medications that may trigger delirium, and providing adequate pain management,” the authors wrote.

Researchers at the University of Zurich, Harvard and Yale published their findings in the Journal of American Medical Directors Association.

New research for simple things to do if you experience dizziness when you stand

Initial orthostatic hypotension (IOH) reflects immediate and temporary adjustments in blood pressure that may cause dizziness. New research identifies two things that may help to prevent falls. One can be done before you stand and the other after. Both are done before you begin walking.

New Podcast Episode from the National Consumer Voice on Nursing Home Neglect: Preventing It and Getting Help

The pandemic has renewed concerns about the quality of care that residents receive in some nursing homes, and many family members have reported significant decline in the condition of their loved ones. Neglect and abuse of
older adults is a long-standing problem that is under-reported and has not received the necessary attention and response from policymakers, yet it results in needless and preventable suffering and harm.

In this episode of the Pursuing Quality Long-Term Care podcast, Dr. Laura Mosqueda talks about neglect, which is the failure to provide goods and services to an individual that are necessary to avoid physical harm, pain, mental anguish, or emotional distress. Dr. Mosqueda is a professor of Family Medicine and Geriatrics at the Keck School of Medicine at the University of Southern California.

If you are a resident or have a loved-one in a Kansas long-term care facility and feel s/he is being abused or neglected, please contact the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services to report: 800-842-0078.

COVID-19 Resources

Update on Visitation in Nursing Facilities

Currently, residents of nursing facilities in Kansas and across the country are allowed to have visitors, despite the uptick in COVID-19 cases. Federal regulations explicitly state that residents have the right to make choices about significant aspects of their life in the facility and the right to receive visitors, as long as it doesn’t infringe on the rights of other residents.

The number of nursing homes cited nationally for impeding residents’ right to have visitors jumped 250% in the most recent survey cycle, a new analysis shows.

The number of tags for F-563 given in the last cycle remained relatively low at 200, compared to more than 9,200 infection and prevention control citations in the same period.

Have you been told you cannot visit your loved-one in the facility? Is staff keeping you from visiting privately in his/her own room? Contact the Kansas State Ombudsman’s office for assistance: 877-662-8362 and the Kansas Dept. for Aging & Disability Services to report: 800-842-0078

To learn more about recent changes to visitation policy, visit the CMS website: Visitation FAQ (cms.gov)

Upcoming Events

Caring for Someone with Dementia

Presented by the North Central Flint Hills AAA

Caring for someone with dementia can be confusing and overwhelming, and often it takes a village.

This month’s Caregiver Talk Show is Caring for Someone with Dementia, featuring Michelle Niedens.

Michelle is the Director of Cognitive Research at the University of Kansas’ Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center. She discusses some of the challenges of caring for someone with dementia and gives some tips for success.

You can register at www.ncfhaaa.com/seminars or by calling 785-776-9294.

Invitation to a Person Centered Practice Training

1.5 hour Virtual Training  Open to ALL!

It is hard to imagine going to a setting where no one knows anything about you, or even who the people are that are most important to you!

This offers an simple way to gain some peace of mind and also help our healthcare workers provide the best care and support.
The Kansas State Long-Term Ombudsman would like to invite you to join them! We think you will find it interesting and useful.

March 22, 2022
10:00-11:30am

Please follow the link below to REGISTER in advance for a FREE Interactive Zoom training:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMufu-rqD4oHtLyPV5VRtQ17DyNKLRuiz2H

The Alzheimer's Association Heart of America Chapter has several upcoming support and education programs. **Click to register and learn more!**

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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*

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**Your Rights Shouldn't Change Just Because Your Address Does...**

Unfortunately, older adults are often forced to do just that.

Many Kansans, especially in rural communities, have difficulty finding or affording consistent and quality home care. Without support to remain at home, older adults often move to assisted living facilities where they lose their right to appeal an eviction.

For those who cannot afford assisted living or need more care than offered in these settings, and who cannot find adequate HCBS, the only option may be nursing homes which can often strip elders of their right to receive care in the least restrictive environment.

For the first 2 years of the pandemic, older adults who needed care in a facility were forced to surrender their right to have visitors without extreme COVID restrictions.

Your rights shouldn't change just because your address does...

**Help protect elder rights in all settings today with a gift to KABC.**

Please click the red Donate Now button and make a secure, love-filled gift online.

Thank you!
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!

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

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