Keeping Up With Care

Kansas Experience

Over the next 15 years, the number of Kansans who are over 65 years old will grow by 40%. Think about that. One in four people will be receiving long-term care services themselves or caring for a loved one who needs that support.

It could be you.

Our sole purpose is to serve Kansans who need information, resources and education to assist with navigating the ever-changing landscape of long-term care.

We are here for you.

One of our key objectives in 2023 is to forge strategic alliances statewide with other aging service agencies, local businesses and community leaders to raise the awareness of aging issues and expand access to the valuable resources available through KABC.
You are not alone.

Together, we can craft educational materials—booklets, workshops and training videos—that answer questions and prompt critical conversations before an emergency happens. KABC is determined to have resources available BEFORE you need it. Your generous donation will determine how many families we can reach with these resources.

Simply click on the donation button below or mail your check to:

**Kansas Advocates for Better Care**
536 Fireside Ct, Suite B
Lawrence, KS 66049

After all, it could be you.

DONATE NOW

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**Community Events**

**2022 Joan Berkley Bioethics Symposium**

Sponsored by Village Shalom, the Center for Practical Bioethics is hosting their 2022 Joan Berkley Bioethics Symposium: Heeding the Voices of the Unheard: Creative Responses to the Wishes of Elders on Wednesday, December 14, 2022 at the Epsten Gallery at Village Shalom, 5500 W 123rd St, Overland Park, KS 66209.

The symposium starts at 9:00 AM with a continental breakfast at 8:30 AM. Registration is free. To register, click on the button below!
Upcoming Events

KABC hosts 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.

There is No Place Like Home:
But "home" is not an address!
Training from the Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman

The training will share person centered practices to aid in knowing the individual, what is important to them, and how to best support them. Everyone deserves to feel “at home” wherever they reside.

This virtual training is on Thursday, December 8th from 7:00pm- 8:30 pm.

Click the picture below to register.

Advocacy in Action

To address Nursing Facility Industry efforts to lower staff training requirements:

KABC is continuing collaborative efforts with experts in health care, advocacy, and education to discuss both the merit and concerns of lowering staff training requirements.

In early November, the Legislative KanCare Oversight Committee discussed the possibility of slashing required training for certified nurse assistants (CNAs) in Kansas from the State required 90 hours to the Federal standard of 75 hours. The reasoning and rationale used to consider such a legislative maneuver is long-standing staff shortages in these facilities. The State of Kansas ranks
46th nationally in addressing staff shortages within its long-term care facilities according to a study completed and released by Seniorly in April of 2022.

Although the pandemic did focus attention on the lack of staffing in these facilities, this isn’t a new issue in Kansas. Nursing facilities were inadequately staffed long before COVID-19. Residents and their families should expect to see facilities invest in staff, recruitment, retention, and training. Residents, their families, and the State of Kansas should not have to continue to pay a high price for continued poor performance, inadequate staffing and failing service providers. The Kansas Legislature has invested over $100 million in additional funding for the nursing facility industry over the past two legislative sessions.

The industry has yet to communicate a positive outcome as a result of this significant monetary investment. Instead, the industry is advocating for lowering the standard of training for staff.

Kansas Legislators are considering lowering the training standards despite having no data to support that the decrease would encourage recruitment of staff and improve quality of care. Kansas currently has a higher standard of training hours than the federal requirement but is far from being a leader in the nation in requiring 90 hours of training. Maine and Missouri require over 170 hours of training for prospective CNAs, a 100 hour increase from Federal standards.

As a counter suggestion, Kansas should do more to keep low-care residents out of facilities by investing in alternative long-term care options and care management for those who wish to age in place. This would lead to lessening the burden of institutions, who have time and time again, failed to meet quality caregiving demands, despite millions of additional taxpayer investment.

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**Resources**

**Long-Term Trends of Psychotropic Drug Use in Nursing Homes**

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) released a report identifying the trends of psychotropic drug use in nursing homes. CMS (Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services) has oversight of nursing homes that are responsible for the health and safety of vulnerable residents. From 2011 through 2019, about 80 percent of Medicare's long-stay nursing home residents were prescribed a psychotropic drug. Additionally, over the number of unsupported schizophrenia diagnoses increased. The OIG states three recommendations regarding psychotropic drug use and reporting for CMS to consider moving forward.

*Long-Term Trends of Psychotropic Drug Use in Nursing Homes Complete Report*

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**Elder Fraud and Financial Abuse Statistics for 2022**

According to the annual Elder Fraud Report from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), reported losses more than doubled from 2019 to 2021, when they reached **almost $1.7 billion**.

Key points include:

- There were 92,371 victims of elder fraud in 2021.
- Elder fraud losses increased by 391.9% ($343 million to $1.685 billion) from 2017 to 2021.
- Confidence fraud, which includes romance scams, was the most costly type of elder fraud, with $432 million in total losses.
- Tech support scams resulted in 13,900 victims, more than any other type of elder fraud.
- Although data is scarce on elder financial abuse, annual loss estimates range from $2.9 billion to $36.5 billion.

*Elder Fraud and Financial Abuse Statistics for 2022*
Ep. 379 Honoring Choices: A Film to Inspire End-of-Life Planning with Elizabeth Coplan and Halle Williams

In this episode, Dr. Karen Wyatt welcome two guests to discuss the short film Honoring Choices that is a powerful tool for persuading people to plan for and talk about the end of life. Elizabeth Coplan is the founder of Grief Dialogues and the creator of the stage play Honoring Choices that ultimately became the film End of Life University is featuring. Halle Williams is the marketing director for both Grief Dialogues and Honoring Choices and the co-host of Out of Grief Comes Art Podcast along with Elizabeth.

Honoring Choices: A Film to Inspire End-of-Life Planning Episode

Help support the legislation that would require written informed consent before administering an anti-psychotic medication to any adult care home resident!

Kansas continues to be a poor performing State regarding the high frequency administration of anti-psychotic drugs. KABC continues to be concerned about the high frequency and potential for misuse of these drugs which result in premature death, stroke, falls, infections, and confusion.

To read more: InforMed Consent
Support KABC at No Cost!

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!

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

*{{Organization Name}}*
*{{Organization Address}}*
*{{Organization Phone}}*
*{{Organization Website}}*

*{{Unsubscribe}}*

KANSAS ADVOCATES for BETTER CARE

better elder care, no matter where