The Kansas Experience

Libby Hastings Joins KABC Staff!

Hello, everyone! My name is Libby and I hail from El Dorado, Kansas. I graduated with a B.A. from Knox College in Galesburg, Illinois. After graduation, I lived in Denver for two years where I grew my passion for non-profit and advocacy work. With years of professional experience in the field of aging, I’m thrilled at the opportunity to return to my home state to share my passions and knowledge with KABC.

In my role as Communication and Public Relations Coordinator, my goals include expanding and maintaining statewide relations with supporters of KABC, increasing communication with the public, media, and other agencies, and continuing advocacy support for elder issues.

Advocacy In Action

CMS new standards of care

The federal agency responsible for setting standards of care for nursing homes has released updates to enhance resident quality of care and oversight. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) notified the Kansas state survey agency, the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS), of changes in areas such as abuse and neglect, admission, transfer, discharge and improving care for individuals with mental health or substance use disorder needs.
CMS revisions clarify guidance for state survey agencies to ensure visitation can occur while preventing community-associated infection or the spread of communicable disease. The new guidance addresses the issue of residents’ rights to safe visitation while adhering to the core principles of infection control and prevention. These changes also include significant revisions to clarifications about facility reported incidents, including examples of cases and what information should be reported. Because inappropriate and unsafe discharges are a serious and widespread problem, the new guidance includes new requirements related to facility-initiated discharges.

Among the changes, CMS requires KDADS to look at payroll-based staffing data to trigger deeper investigations of sufficient staffing. This is a critical improvement because even though most nursing homes fail to provide sufficient staff to meet the needs of their residents, they are rarely cited for insufficient staffing and rarely face a fine even if insufficient staffing leads to harmful conditions.

The new guidance prohibits nursing homes from requiring residents to sign binding arbitration agreements as a condition of admission to the facility, or as a requirement to continue to receive care at a facility. It also addresses other requirements such as allowing residents to choose a neutral arbitrator and facilities making final arbitrator’s decision available to CMS or its designee, for review.

More information about all of the quality improvement changes can be found at the Long Term Care Community Coalition or on the CMS website.

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**Resources**

Nursing homes that voluntarily participate in the Medicare and Medicaid programs must adhere to minimum standards of care established by the federal Nursing Home Reform Law and its implementing regulations. These standards ensure that every nursing home resident is provided services that help attain and maintain their “highest practicable physical, mental, and psychosocial well-being.” Under the Reform Law, nursing homes that fail to meet the federal requirements are subject to various penalties, based on the scope and severity of the violation(s).

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) data indicate that most health violations (more than 95%) are cited as causing “no harm” to residents. The failure to recognize resident pain, suffering, and humiliation when it occurs too often means nursing homes are not held accountable for violations through financial penalties. In the absence of a financial penalty, nursing homes may have little incentive to correct the underlying causes of resident abuse, neglect, and other forms of harm.

Do YOU think these deficiencies caused “no harm”?  
*There's just no time for those things*: Elder Justice "No Harm" Newsletter (Volume 4, Issue 2) - NursingHome411

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**National Consumer Voice 2022 Resident's Voice Challenge**

Creative writing and artistic expression are meaningful and compelling ways to highlight the importance of residents’ rights and how these rights can be carried out in all long-term care settings. For the Resident’s Voice Challenge, residents are encouraged to submit essays, poems, artwork, drawings, or videos related to the theme.

**Here's How to Participate**
Serving LGBTQ Older Adults in Pride Month & Beyond

Pride Month provides an opportunity for advocates working with older adults to reflect on how legal and aging services programs can better serve LGBTQ older adults. As this commemorative month comes to an end, this reflection and evaluation should continue year-round, along with taking steps to provide inclusive, trauma-informed, and person-directed services to LGBTQ older adults.

On June 15, President Biden signed an Executive Order on Advancing Equality for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Intersex Individuals. The Executive Order contains a number of measures to advance and secure the rights of LGBTQ communities and also includes measures to strengthen supports specifically for LGBTQ older adults.

For more LGBTQ resources, visit NCLER's website.

Kansas Governor Laura Kelly Celebrates the Launch of the 9-8-8 Mental Health Lifeline in Kansas

Starting July 16, Kansans Can Call 9-8-8 During Mental Health and Substance Abuse Emergencies.

Today, Governor Laura Kelly ceremonially signed Senate Bill 19, bipartisan legislation that launches 9-8-8 as the official 24/7 three-digit dialing code for the National Suicide and Crisis Lifeline. Beginning Saturday, July 16, Kansans and all Americans can call 9-8-8 during mental health and substance abuse emergencies. Governor Kelly joined Sedgwick County Commissioners, legislators, and local advocates for the celebration at the Sedgwick County Courthouse.

Read the entire press release.

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.

Upcoming Events

Watch for more information about KABC's Annual Membership Meeting & Caregiver Training

Friday, Sept 9th - Location and Topic to be determined!

Stand By Me 2022
KABC's Annual Friend-raising event is coming soon!

Sunday, October 9 Arterra Event Gallery
2161 Quail Creek Drive Lawrence, KS
Watch for more info!

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

There is No Place Like "Home" - But Home is Not an Address!

The Kansas Long-Term Care Ombudsman invites you to join in this conversation about Person-Centered Care regulations.

Thursday, July 28
2:00 pm

Click the photo to register!

Help end the practice of temporary aides with a gift to KABC.

KABC is fighting for aides to have all the resources they need to give safe and better care.

If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation, click the button below. If you prefer, you may mail your check to:

KABC
536 Fireside Ct, Suite B Lawrence, KS 66049

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!

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**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

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**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}}*

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