Keeping Up With Care

Kansas Experience
A BIG THANK YOU to all who attended Stand By Me on October 9th, 2022 at Maceli’s Banquet Hall in Lawrence! More than 65 attendees joined in for an afternoon of food, drinks, raffle prizes, and an information-rich program. Michael Schwanke from KWCH-TV in Wichita emceed the program, which included special guest Attorney General Candidate Chris Mann, and KABC board member, Lisa Van Dusen. Lisa delivered a heart-felt account of her mother's experience in a nursing facility, and the value of KABC's advocacy to help pass legislation that protects older adults. We are so grateful to all of them for donating their time to make the program successful. Many thanks to our volunteers and especially our generous sponsors who helped make Stand By Me possible!

Community Events
Person Centered Approaches with People Experiencing Dementia

November 16, 2022
10 a.m. to 12 p.m CST

Person-Centered Care, as defined by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, is “to focus on the resident as the locus of control and support the resident in making their own choices and having control over their lives.” (CMS §483.5)

The Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman invites you to join Tanya M. Richmond, MSW, LCSW, Partner at Support Development Associates, Certified Death Doula, and Co-Chair of The Learning Community for Person Centered Practices for a 2.0-hour training covering person centered best practice, the latest research in person centered practices with those experiencing dementia, and practical application tips.

Register Here

Upcoming Events

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

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
Advocacy in Action

KABC's Executive Director, Dan Goodman, was featured in a Kansas Reporter article early this month in response to legislative suggestion to slash CNA training hours as a resolution to the workforce shortage issue. Members of the Robert G. (Bob) Bethell Joint Committee on Home and Community Based Services and KanCare Oversight suggested a decrease in training hours for certified nurse assistance in Kansas from 90 to 75 hours.

KABC staff encouraged members of the Bethell Committee to reexamine reducing training requirements for nursing home direct care staff. Reducing the training that nursing home staff need to care for residents with complex care needs, many of whom suffer from dementia puts both the residents and staff at risk of serious injury. For example, many nursing home residents have mobility limitations and need help transferring and often requiring special equipment and two staff trained to safely move them.

KABC recognizes the urgent need to address the workforce shortage, but there is no evidence that reducing training requirements will attract more workers or retain them. We ask that there be more conversation about this issue before making recommendations to reduce training requirements. More discussion with the educational institutions who provide training, the nursing home associations, the Kansas State Nurses Association, residents and their families, and other stakeholders is needed before making such decisions.

Resources

October is Residents' Rights Month

Governor Laura Kelly proclaimed October 2022 as National Long-Term Care Residents' Rights Month. The Kansas Long-Term Care Ombudsman and a group of long-term care residents visited the Capitol in Topeka to represent thousands of people who live in long-term care homes in Kansas. The national theme chosen by Consumer Voice this year is “Inspiring Unity within our Community!”

Your Rights and Protections as a Nursing Home Resident
Voting Rights for Residents of Long-Term Care Facilities

Individuals receiving long-term care services and supports still have voting rights, no matter where they live or what care they receive. While residents of long-term care facilities can have a harder time voting for various reasons, there are many resources available to help residents register to vote, obtain mail-in ballots, and learn what to expect on the ballot. Long-term care facilities must "have a plan to ensure residents can exercise their right to vote" according to 2020 guidance from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. A resident's rights, including the right to vote, must not be impeded in any way by the nursing home and its facility staff.

The Kansas 2022 general election is Tuesday, November 8th.

Reframing Aging Through Images

Reframing aging requires that we not only change the way we talk about older people but that we are intentional about the images we choose to represent them. In a society where people are systematically discriminated against because of how old they are, it is important that we develop counter-narratives that describe the authentic nature of aging—a process of building momentum. One way we do this is by pairing words with images that accurately illustrate the reality of life for older adults.

The FrameWorks Institute and AARP recently published a new strategic guide entitled Reframing Aging Through Images: Recommendations from Research to offer guidance on how to select the right images when portraying older people. Some of the recommendations include showing images of:
- Older adults participating in common recreational activities
- Older adults with limited mobility who are engaged with others
- Older adults involved in work settings
- Older adults comfortable with technology

Images can, in fact, reframe aging and it’s time that we use them to tell a more enriching and authentic story about aging.

View the strategic guide here

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**November is National Family Caregivers Month**

National Family Caregivers Month is a time to recognize and honor family caregivers across the country. Here are 10 Tips for Family Caregivers shared from the Caregiver Action Network:

1. **Seek support from other caregivers.** You are not alone!
2. **Take care of your own health** so that you can be strong enough to take care of your loved one.
3. **Accept offers of help** and suggest specific things people can do to help you.
4. Learn how to **communicate effectively** with doctors.
5. Caregiving is hard work so **take respite breaks** often.
6. Watch out for **signs of depression** and don’t delay getting professional help when you need it.
7. Be open to **new technologies** that can help you care for your loved one.
8. **Organize medical information** so it’s up to date and easy to find.
9. Make sure **legal documents are in order**.
10. **Give yourself credit for doing the best you can in one of the toughest jobs there is!**

Caregiver Action Network

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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

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!

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...
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)*

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