

OFFICE OF THE STATE LONG-TERM CARE OMBUDSMAN

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MELANIE MCNEIL, ESQ., STATE OMBUDSMAN IS AT THE GEORGIA NEWS NETWORK RADIO

Melanie joined the radio show at the Georgia News Network to talk about Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program including volunteers in August, 2017. Please click Mp3 download below to listen.



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HS_Ombudsman (1).

Words from Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program Summer Intern – Kennesaw State University

“I would not be graduating if it wasn't for the Georgia Ombudsman Program and I would like to extend my most sincere thank you to you, Lin, Melanie, Tracey, Kim, and Tina. It was a pleasure to Intern with your office. I learned so much about resources and advocacy available to the elderly population. Thank you so much again,” C.W.

Our Summer Intern indicated that Gerontology courses failed to mention programs like the Ombudsman Program. She also noted various career paths for helping the elderly. Her advice: “This was a positive internship that has pushed me towards a career working with the elderly” and “I gained a lot of insight about DHS structure, laws, residents' rights - nursing home regulations, and Adult Protective Services.”

Congratulations on graduating July 28, 2017 from Kennesaw State University!



Program Updates State Office

Staff of the Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman (OSLTCO) attended the Pioneer Network Annual Conference from July 30th to August 2nd. The annual conference highlights innovations and best practices in the long-term care culture change movement. The theme was Person-Directed Culture this year which was particularly relevant to Long-Term Care Ombudsmen because the new nursing home regulations emphasize person-centered care. OSLTCO participated in a 60-minute poster presentation on August 1st. The topic for the poster is - ***Amplifying the Ombudsman's Voice: Front-Line Advocates for Residents Rights.***



Jeff Taylor, Ombudsman Services Coordinator (L) and Melanie McNeil, Esq., State Ombudsman (R)

Middle Program

The staffs of the Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman and Middle Ombudsman Program visited Bostick Nursing Center on August 14, 2017 in Milledgeville. It is the first in Georgia that was conceived specifically for parolees. Currently, the center has 5 residents. It is licensed for 280 residents.



North Program

On July 18, 2017 Lin Chao and Senior Certified Volunteer, Renee Sanders provided Residents' Rights Bingo Games at the Lodge at Aspen Village Personal Care Home.



Congratulations to Our Newly Certified Long-Term Care Ombudsman Representatives

Robert Nolan – North Ombudsman Program
Ashley Ussery – North Ombudsman Program
Inger Jones – West Ombudsman Program

National Center on Law & Elder Rights

The National Center on Law and Elder Rights (NLCER) is a new resource center for the legal services and aging and disability networks, focused on the legal rights of older adults. It is a one-stop support center for the legal services and aging and disability community. NCLER's trainings, case consultations, and technical assistance are provided by Justice in Aging, the American Bar Association Commission on Law and Aging, the National Consumer Law Center, and The Center for Social Gerontology – all under one roof. Find NCLER at <https://ncler.acl.gov/> NCLER provides free case consultation assistance for attorneys and professionals seeking more information to help older adults. Topics can include: Advance Planning, Elder Abuse, Guardianship, Health/LTSS, and more.

National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care – The Resident Advocate Newsletter

The Resident Advocate is a quarterly newsletter for residents of long-term care facilities. It provides: information on residents' rights and care issues; news and updates on national policy; and self-advocacy tips for obtaining person-centered, quality care. The newsletter is a great resource for residents and families, and can also be shared among friends, facility staff, ombudsman and others. Read the first issue and find more information at <http://theconsumervoice.org/issues/recipients/nursing-home-residents/resident-advocate>

Upcoming Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program Continuing Education WebEx: Elder Abuse and Resident to Resident Aggression

Please join us for our upcoming WebEx on September 20, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. (EST)

Topic: ***Elder Abuse and Resident to Resident Aggression***

Description: Resident to resident aggression is a common form of bullying among older adults. It can range from verbal intimidation to physical violence. This program, hosted by the Georgia Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program and presented by New Jersey Long-Term Care Ombudsman James McCracken, will increase awareness of this ongoing problem. Elder abuse (EA) and resident to resident aggression (RRA) will be defined, warning signs identified and interventions discussed to assist individuals and organizations.

Washington Update

CBO Gives Positive Report on Telehealth Legislation

The Congressional Budget Office has reported that the Creating High-Quality Results and Outcomes Necessary to Improve Chronic (CHRONIC) Care Act of 2017 (S. 870) would neither add to nor decrease Medicare spending over the next decade. The favorable scoring should help move the legislation forward. The Senate Finance Committee has already approved it unanimously. The bill would increase access to telehealth for Medicare beneficiaries with chronic illnesses. For detailed information, please visit <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/870>

Overtime Update

The new federal overtime rule issued by the Department of Labor last year that would have expanded the number of non-exempt workers remains in limbo. A federal court issued a nationwide injunction against implementation of the rule in October of 2016. The Administration has received at least two extensions for filing a response with the court, and may seek a third. In another development, legislation has been passed by the House that would allow nonexempt employees to accept compensatory time in lieu of overtime pay, something that is currently impermissible. For more information, visit <https://www.dol.gov/whd/overtime/rfi2016.htm>

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2017/07/26/2017-15666/request-for-information-defining-and-delimiting-the-exemptions-for-executive-administrative>

