

OFFICE OF THE STATE LONG-TERM CARE OMBUDSMAN

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2018 Advocacy during General Assembly Session Results in \$15 Personal Needs Allowance Increase Melanie McNeil, Esq., State Long-Term Care Ombudsman

More than 1,000 nursing home residents from across the state sent letters and petitions to Governor Deal and their state House and Senate members asking for an increase in the Personal Needs Allowance (PNA). Governor Deal and the members of the Georgia General Assembly responded positively. Funds were recommended in the governor's budget and increased by the legislature so that all residents will now have a PNA of \$65 – an increase of \$15 per month. Many of the Ombudsman Representatives across the state encouraged and facilitated the effort. Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program (LTCOP) regulations, that took effect in July 1, 2016 reinforced the federal Older Americans Act requirement that the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman and Ombudsman Representatives must engage in public policy advocacy and must assist residents and families to engage in public policy advocacy. The PNA increase will begin July 1, 2018.

Janet Payne, Capitol Ombudsman Program met with Senator Donzella James (District 35) to discuss how the increase in the PNA would enhance resident quality of life. Senator James was one of the Senate sponsors of a bill authorizing the increase.



May 28th state offices including the SLTCO Office, are closed for Memorial Day.





Governor Deal signs several bills related to elder abuse

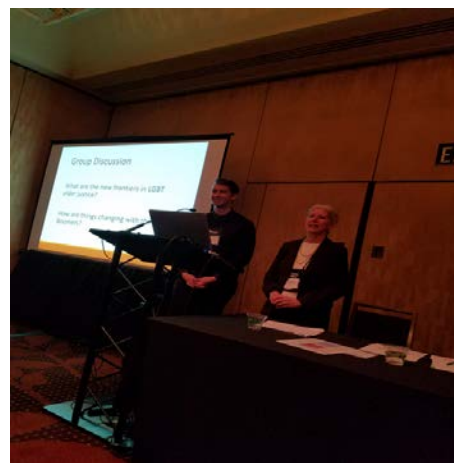
Governor Deal signed several bills including SB 406 related to long-term care background checks, HB 635 related to multi-disciplinary teams in judicial circuits and HB 803 related to trafficking an individual for his or her benefits.

Ombudsman Representative Candidates Certification Training

The Office of the State Long Term Care Ombudsman conducted a certification training class from April 16th to 18th for three candidates. Topics included the history and role of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program, Basic Residents' Rights, Case Study Activity, Nursing Homes, Personal Care Homes and Assisted Living Communities Laws & Regulations, Complaint Processing and Complaint Investigation. In addition to classroom training, on-site certification training was conducted from May 8th to 10th in Macon, at a nursing home and several personal care homes in the Macon area.

State Office

Melanie McNeil, Esq., State Ombudsman presented with Dr. Tim Johnston, Director of National Projects, SAGE on the topic "The Invisible Population: Advocating for LGBT Older Adults in Long-Term Care Facilities" at the Aging in America Conference (ASA) on March 26, 2018.



Also, at the ASA conference, Lin Chao, Ombudsman Services Coordinator, and Greg Shelley, Program Manager with the Harris County Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program in Houston, Texas, presented at the poster session. Their topic was “Amplifying the Ombudsman’s Voice, Public Policy Advocacy Tools.”



National Association of State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Programs (NASOP)



Congratulations to Melanie McNeil, recently elected President of the National Association of State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Programs (NASOP) at the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman National Training Conference in Denver, CO on April 23 2018. She is pictured in the middle here with other former NASOP presidents. Every state, the District of Columbia, Guam and Puerto Rico have a State Long-Term Care Ombudsman (SLTCO). Each SLTCO oversees Ombudsman Representatives who advocate for residents of long-term care facilities.

2018 Southern Gerontological Society (SGS)/Georgia Gerontology Society (GGS) Joint Conference



The Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman (OSLTCO) is partnering with the Emory University School of Medicine to apply for a Civil Money Penalty grant to implement the Dirty Mouth Initiative: Oral Hygiene Care Pilot Project for metro Atlanta area nursing home residents. Pictured here with Dr. Kevin Hendler, Dentist from Emory, second from left, is staff from the OSLTCO including Melanie McNeil, Jeff Taylor and Lin Chao. The pilot project details were presented at the Georgia Gerontology Society/Southern Gerontological Society conference in April.

North Ombudsman Program



Jennifer Almond, Long-Term Care Ombudsman Representative Coordinator presented "Let's Talk About Sex" at the SGS/GGS Joint Conference on April 13, 2018. During this poster session, participants learned how important the long-term care facility resident's rights are including the right to sexual expression.

National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care

Materials are available from the recent Consumer Voice webinar "When Nursing Homes Close: Hear from Pilot States." Representatives from Michigan and Tennessee's closure teams shared their experiences over the past year as they developed mission statements, clarified roles of the different state agencies, created a written process, and developed tools for addressing transfer trauma.

http://theconsumervoiceworkshop.org/issues/issue_details/nursing-home-closures#webinars

Center for Medicare Advocacy

Oral Health America (OHA) recently published the fourth volume in a series of reports titled "A State of Decay," surveying the state of oral health for older Americans. The first volume in the series focused on the cost of services and financial reimbursement rates as the primary barrier to accessing oral healthcare. Since then, the series has expanded to highlight both public health and healthcare delivery factors contributing to older adults' oral health. See details at <http://www.medicareadvocacy.org/state-of-decay-report-examines-oral-health-for-older-americans/>

Ombudsman Representatives Training CEU Opportunities

- The Long-Term Care Community Coalition is providing free educational programs. A webinar is scheduled for June 19, 2018 at 1:00 pm. See information below



LTCCC Webinar
Invite May June 2018.

- Georgia Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program Annual Spring Training Conference June 11 – 13, 2018 in Macon, GA
- Elder Rights Conference sponsored by Central Savannah River Area Regional Commission will be held in Augusta on June 14, 2018. Melanie McNeil, Esq., State Ombudsman will be on a speaker panel

