The Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman (OSLTCO) conducted a statewide training for the Ombudsman Representatives who serve residents of long-term care facilities across the state. The training took place June 11-13 at the Macon Department of Human Services building. At the conference, the OSLTCO recognized Ombudsman Representatives (OR) for their years of service and for their contributions to the programs. We also recognized volunteers who contribute to the program.

The training covered various topics including a day of training related to Alzheimer’s Disease & Dementia, conducted the Virtual Dementia Tour for the ORs, discussed data management and updates, the volunteer program, advocacy for residents and an update from the local programs.
AWARDS

Keith Adams, 5 years services

Debbie Rogers, 5 years services

Renee Sanders, volunteers 35 years services

Jennifer Childers, 5 years services

Cat Young, 10 years services

Rachel Hilliard, 20 years services

Pam Lipsitz, 25 years services

Liz Schultze, Newly Certified Representative
State Office

The Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman (OSLTCO) sponsored the Elder Rights conference in Augusta on June 14, 2018.

Melanie McNeil, Esq., State Ombudsman presented with Forensic Special Initiatives Unit (FSIU) team members, Anna Ayers and Lindsey Greenwald regarding benefits tracking especially of personal care home residents.
**Washington Update**

The Senior Safe Act has been signed into law. This new federal statute provides limited immunity from liability to financial institutions and their employees when reporting suspected financial exploitation of elderly persons to appropriate government agencies or officials.

https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/115/hr3758

A hearing on the impact of opioids on the elderly was held on May 23\textsuperscript{rd} by the US Senate Aging Committee. Entitled, “Preventing and Treating Opioid Misuse Among Older Americans.” The hearing examined the continued challenges of identifying opioid misuse among older adults, the efforts to reduce older Americans’ dependence on opioids, and the need to expand access to treatment for those battling substance and opioid misuse. Dozens of bills are pending in Congress seeking to address the opioid crisis.


**News**

**Georgia State University Gerontology Institute Receives $1.6 Million Grant**

GSU Gerontology Institute has received $1.6 million from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for a three-year training and development project to improve the state’s nursing homes.

https://news.gsu.edu/2018/04/10/gerontologists-get-1-6m-grant-to-improve-nursing-home-care-in-ga/