

Long Term Care OMBUDSMAN

LTCO Link

Investigating concerns • Connecting to choices • Advocating for better care

SECOND EDITION

SUMMER 2011

If you'd like to receive this newsletter electronically, please send a note to Maria Asher at masher@ltco.org.

VOLUNTEER NEWS

Your work is appreciated! A family member called recently to say thank you for the volunteer's investigation into their loved one's complaint about the care she was receiving at the nursing home.

AARP Recruitment. The State Ombudsman Office has collaborated with AARP to conduct a volunteer recruitment effort for all the ombudsman programs in Ohio. This will begin later in July, and we have high hopes that many new volunteers will be recruited through this process.

New Volunteer Training. Training classes for new volunteers are scheduled for 3 consecutive Thursdays—August 11, 18, 25, 10 a.m. –3 p.m., and 2 Saturdays in August (dates coming soon). We have several people signed up already, but if you know of anyone who might be interested, especially the Saturday class designed for working people, please let Lauri know.

Volunteer reports can be completed online through the LTCO website—go to www.ltco.org—then go to How You Can Help, and the forms are available through links at the bottom of the page. Questions? —call Lauri Scharf, Volunteer Coordinator, 216-696-2721, ext. 123.

Indians challenge. Individual who volunteer for LTCO for a minimum of 4 hours between 3/11 and 8/31 will receive two complimentary Indians tickets to a Cleveland Indians game. The individual who logs the greatest number of overall volunteer hours in this Challenge will win the opportunity to throw out the first pitch at a Cleveland Indians game this fall! So send in your reports & call Lauri if you want tickets.

Media Stars! Volunteer Ombudsman and LTCO Board Member Phil Brewer and Volunteer Coordinator Lauri Scharf recently appeared on the TV program *Golden Opportunities* hosted by State Representative Armond Budish. They were able to share information and insights about LTCO services and volunteer opportunities.

DESIGNATION & SERVICE REVIEW (DSR)

Thanks to all of the hard work and commitment of our volunteers, staff and board members, we successfully passed the DSR conducted by the State Ombudsman Office in mid-May. LTCO has received a three-year designation and recognition of all the work done to improve practice and performance. Good job!

CHANNEL 3 ABUSE REPORT

LTCO Executive Director, Susan Griffin, was interviewed recently by Channel 3 for her reaction to a horrific abuse story investigated by Channel 3 at a local nursing facility. The coverage received of this story has led to many new calls to our office.

ADVOCACY

\$\$\$ - Summary of FY 2012-2013 State Biennium Budget.

- Long Term Care Ombudsman funds were cut 10% in the first year of the budget.
- One line item has been created for a unified long term care budget. Funding that has been under the Department of Aging (PASSPORT, Assisted Living, PACE, and Choices programs) was transferred to the Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS).
- PASSPORT funding cuts are 5% per year, with an expected increase in caseload of 14%, 3% provider rate cuts, but no care plan cost cuts. The Assisted Living and PACE waivers funding were cut by 3%.
- ODJFS will seek federal approval to combine the 5 community-based waiver programs into one “mega-waiver.”
- The budget authorizes submission of a proposal to the federal government by September 2012 to implement a new Integrated Care Delivery System implemented to provide comprehensive, person-centered care that meets the physical and behavioral health, long term care, and social needs of seniors and people with disabilities. This system would target people who are dually eligible for Medicaid and Medicare and people with severe and persistent mental illness.
- The Residential State Supplement (RSS) program that provides housing for low-income people was moved from Ohio Department of Aging to the Ohio Department of Mental Health.
- Alzheimer’s Respite funds were reduced by almost 54%. Funds were transferred to the Senior Community Services budget to help meet its match requirements for Older Americans Act dollars. The total cut of the Senior Community Services funds was 10%.
- Adult Protective Services line item was cut 10%.
- Kinship Permanency Incentive Program provides financial support for minor children in custody of grandparents or other kinship caregivers. Originally slated for elimination, the final budget restored funding at \$3.5 million in FY 2012 and 2013.

In spite of some of the cuts, there was better news in the final budget than originally expected, so please send a note or call your local legislator to thank them for their support for these programs.

STAFF NEWS

Former volunteer and now Ombudsman Specialist, **Kate Greenfield**, has decided to retire at the end of this summer. We wish Kate and her husband Harry many happy and relaxing adventures.

As our work continues to increase, we are fortunate to be adding three new ombudsman who start in August and September—more information to come in the next newsletter!

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

See the last page of the newsletter for training programs scheduled for the next few months. You can also find this information (and more!) on the LTCO website, www.ltco.org. Click on the small calendar located on the right side of most pages, or go to the “How Can You Help” page and click on “Training Opportunities” at the bottom, which will take you to a large calendar where you can click to get more details on the programs listed.

TRAINING & CONTINUING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES (*LTCO-sponsored events in blue*)

- July 20: Creating a Vision Map.** Sponsor: Rockport Retirement Community; Location: 20375 Center Ridge Road, Rocky River, Ohio 44116; 8:00 am–10:00 am; 2.0 CEU (pending). RSVP: If you wish to attend, call Patrick Robinette at 440.863-5016.
- July 21: Grief and Grace.** Sponsor: Cornerstone of Hope; Location: Cornerstone of Hope, 5905 Brecksville Road, Independence, Ohio 44131 8:00 am-10:00 am. 1.0 CEU (pending); Presenter: Emily Marvin. RSVP: Please register by calling (216) 524-4673.
- August 4: Ethics of Cross-Cultural Persons.** Sponsor: Eliza Jennings, A Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitative Community. **Presenter:** Holy Family Hospice; Location: Eliza Jennings, 10603 Detroit Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44102; 8:00 am–9:00 am; 1.0 CEU (pending); RSVP by calling Peggy McDonald at (216) 226-0282.
- August 17: Assertiveness: How to Say What You Need to Say.** Sponsor: Harbor Court Retirement Community; Location: 22900 Center Ridge Road, Rocky River, Ohio 44116; 8:00 am – 10:00 am; 2.0 CEU (pending); RSVP: If you wish to attend, call Patrick Robinette at 440.863-5016.
- August 11, 18, 25: New Volunteer Training for LTCO.** 10:00 a.m. –3:00 p.m. at LTCO Office.
- August 18: Grief and Siblings; Sponsor:** Cornerstone of Hope; Presenter: Roberta Stack-Constantino; 8:00 am – 10:00 am; 1.0 CEU (pending); Location: Cornerstone of Hope, 5905 Brecksville Road, Independence, Ohio 44131; RSVP: call (216) 524-4673
- August 18 : Living in Harmony with Chronic Conditions; Sponsors:** Community Geriatric Services with Southwest General Hospital; 8:00 am-1.0 CEU (Pending); Presenter: Mary Ellen Campobasso, MSN, RN, ACNS-BC; Location: *Life Care Center of Medina. 2400 Columbia Road, Medina, Ohio 44256*; Breakfast and registration will start at 7:30 a.m. with the class beginning at 8 a.m. ; RSVP: call (330) 483-3131.
- August 24 : Regional Meeting - Kate Greenfield, OS.**
- August 31 : Regional Meeting - Lauri Scharf, OS.**
- September 1: Behavioral Health with Hospice;** Sponsor: Eliza Jennings, A Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitative Community; 8:00 am–9:00 am; 1.0 CEU (pending); Presenter: Cleveland Clinic Hospice; Location: Eliza Jennings, 10603 Detroit Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44102; RSVP: call Peggy McDonald at (216) 226-0282.
- September 15: Ethics and the Law;** Sponsor: Life Care Center of Medina; Presenter: Maureen Rizzo, LISW, Clinical Liaison ; 8:00 am; 1.0 CEU (Pending); Location: Life Care Center of Medina, 2400 Columbia Road, Medina, Ohio 44256; RSVP: (330) 483-3131; Breakfast and registration will start at 7:30 a.m. with the class beginning at 8 a.m.
- September 15: LTCO Quarterly Volunteer Training. Topics: TBD. 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. LTCO Office. RSVP to therd@ltco.org.**
- September 29: Regional meeting - Margaret Miller and Tyrone Robinson**
- October 6: Forgiveness and the Elderly;** Sponsor: Eliza Jennings, A Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitative Community; 8:00 am – 9:00 am; 1.0 CEU (pending); Presenter: Kuhlman EduCare; Location: Eliza Jennings, 10603 Detroit Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44102; RSVP: call Peggy McDonald at (216) 226-0282.
- October 19: Topic: Relationship Strategies: Respecting Preferences and Differences.** 8:00 am – 10:00 am; 2.0 CEU (pending); Sponsor: Rockport Retirement Community; Location: 20375 Center Ridge Road, Rocky River, Ohio 44116. RSVP: If you wish to attend, call Patrick Robinette at 440.863-5016.
- October 20: Grief Hoards;** Sponsor: Organizing 4U; 8:00 am – 10:00 am; 1.0 CEU (pending); Presenter: Muffy and JoEllen; Location: Cornerstone of Hope, 5905 Brecksville Road, Independence, Ohio 44131; RSVP: call (216) 524-4673.

Donate now!

**Help Long Term Care Ombudsman continue its vital and important work in the community.
Donate online at www.ltco.org or call 216.696.2719 for more information**