

**MINUTES
PENNYRILE AREA LONG-TERM OMBUDSMAN
ADVISORY COUNCIL
March 16, 2016**

The Pennyrile Area Long-Term Ombudsman Advisory Council meeting was held March 16, 2016 at Pennyrile Area Development District, Hopkinsville, KY.

The following Council members were present and a quorum was established per the bylaws.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

**Nell Ritzheimer
Margaret Gilland
Candyce Loescher
Kathleen Pharris**

**Christian County
Crittenden County
Hopkins County
Trigg County**

VISITORS:

Sherry Culp – State LTCO
Mark Burress – Regional LTCO

CALL TO ORDER:

Cindy Tabor determined that there was a quorum and the Ombudsman meeting was called into session.

MINUTES:

A motion was made and seconded to approve the December 9, 2015 minutes as printed. The motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Sherry Culp opened by discussing House Bills 344, 410 and Senate Bills 6, 165 and 205 and how they pertain or affect residents in long term care facilities. A hand-out was provided to the Council members regarding the bills.

Cindy provided an update for the second quarter of FY' 16 for the Ombudsman Program. Cindy mentioned that the primary role of the Ombudsman is to insure quality care for residents in nursing facilities, investigate and resolve complaints made by residents or families and to provide community education on resident rights. Cindy stated that the Ombudsman office serves the nine county Pennyrile region with 32 facilities and 2,566 beds. Cindy reported that there were 112 new complaints and she discussed the three top

complaints, care, rights and environment. Cindy stated that 83 facility visits were completed. She mentioned that 536 consults were provided to individuals and 26 to facilities. Cindy stated that the LTCO Ombudsman office also participated in 29 facility surveys.

Cindy discussed the Pennyrile Elder Abuse Councils. She mentioned that the Council is divided into three chapters that service the nine counties in the Pennyrile Region. Cindy stated that the chapters are involved in bringing awareness and educating communities about elder abuse. Cindy provided information on the dates, times and locations of the elder abuse meetings.

Cindy stated that the LTCO Ombudsman office is in need of volunteers, friendly visitors and certified ombudsman volunteers. She discussed the role of a volunteer and stated that training is provided to individuals interested in becoming a volunteer.

Cindy provided an update on the Senior Services Rally that was held in Frankfort, February 24, 2016 at the Capitol Rotunda. She mentioned that she, Bruce Carver, Crittenden Co. Senior Center Director, Jenny Sosh and several Council members from the LTCO and Pennyrile AAAIL Advisory Councils attended the rally. The group met with Senator Whitney Westerfield, Representative Myron Dossett and Representative Lynn Bechler after the rally to discuss issues affecting seniors.

Cindy reported that there were funds leftover from the Forgotten Angels project. Cindy mentioned that bags will be purchased with some of the money. There was some discussion by the Council on purchasing games, coloring books, crayons and other activity items for Personal Care homes in the Pennyrile region. A motion was made and seconded for Cindy to purchase the items. The motion passed.

With no further business, a motion to adjourn was made, seconded and approved. Meeting adjourned.