

MINUTES
PENNYRILE AREA LONG-TERM OMBUDSMAN
ADVISORY COUNCIL
March 8, 2017

The Pennyrile Area Long-Term Ombudsman Advisory Council meeting was held March 8, 2017 at Pennyrile Area Development District, Hopkinsville, KY.

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Edith Lewis
Anita Simmons
Nell Ritzheimer
Shirley Stepp
Margaret Gilland

Christian County
Christian County
Christian County
Christian County
Crittenden County

VISITORS:

Sherry Culp – State LTCO
Mark Burruss - SLTCOP

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 16, 2016 minutes as printed. The motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Sherry Culp, State LTCO provided information on staffing needs in nursing home facilities. Sherry provided hand-outs to Council members and stated that the duty of the Ombudsman as defined by the federal government is a residency advocacy. Sherry mentioned that nursing facilities are regulated environments and that the goal of the LTC Ombudsman is to ensure that residents in nursing facilities receive good services.

Cindy Tabor reported on the second quarter of FY'17 for the LTC Ombudsman Program. Cindy mentioned that the primary role of the Ombudsman is to advocate for residents in nursing facilities, investigate and resolve complaints made by residents or families. Cindy stated that the Ombudsman office serves the nine county Pennyrile region with 32 facilities and 2,566 beds. Cindy stated that 78 facility visits were completed and the LTC Ombudsman office received 62 complaints. She reported that the LTC Ombudsman office

provided 454 consults to individuals and facilities. Cindy mentioned that the LTC Ombudsman office participated in 31 facility surveys. Cindy discussed the top three complaints; care related, rights and environment. Cindy stated that the LTC Ombudsman office is in need of volunteers, friendly visitors and certified ombudsman volunteers. Cindy reported that Nursing Home Five Star Compare is a great resource for individuals looking for a nursing facility and provided the web address for it. She mentioned that the website helps with locating facilities, and provides information on health inspections, staffing, quality measure and rates the facilities.

Cindy provided an update on the 2016 Forgotten Angels project. She stated that 275 individuals were served through the project. Cindy stated that there were funds leftover and that the Council will discuss at the next meeting what to do with the funds.

Cindy discussed the Elder Abuse Council. She stated that there are three chapters in the Pennyrile region and that each Council is involved in bringing awareness to the community about elder abuse. Dates and times of the meetings were provided. Cindy reported that June 15th is World Elder Abuse Awareness Day and provided information on events planned for the day. Cindy mentioned that t-shirts are available for the event and provided sizes and the cost.

Cindy provided an update on the Senior Services Advocacy Day that was held in Frankfort, KY on Thursday, February 23rd at the Capital Annex. Cindy stated that she and Belinda Babb attended the rally and met with legislators and provided information to them on the Pennyrile Area Agency on Aging programs and nursing home staffing needs.

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