

Making Elder Care Better Since 1975

Kansas Advocates
for
Better Care

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- Not for Profit, Membership & Volunteer, Citizen Advocacy Organization, Statewide
- 850 members, Volunteer Board of Directors
- **Mission: Improving the *Quality* of Long Term Care in Kansas**
- Focus population: older adults and adults with disabilities needing/using long-term care
- Since 1975, formerly known Kansans for the Improvement of Nursing Homes
- Advocacy 1) with elders & families, one-on-one; 2) educating & training caregivers, paid and family; 3) public policies that improve care, care access and choice, protection from abuse, & health and safety standards
- Mitzi McFatrigh, Director; Barbara Conant, Public Policy Coordinator; Lenette Hamm, Office Manager; Katie Workman, Spring 2013 Intern.
- Operations and Advocacy are funded by private donations & members. State or federal dollars received are for trainings KABC provides on behalf of KDADS or CMS initiatives to improve care and prevent abuse, neglect or exploitation.

Public Policy Concerns

- Adequate Care for elders in nursing facilities that reduces or prevents injury, illness & death. Kansas' current standards don't achieve this, leaving elders at high risk.
- Protection from and Prevention of Abuse, Neglect & Exploitation of elders and adults receiving long-term care at home or in a facility in Kansas
 - 27% - 92 of 345 nursing facilities cited with serious harm deficiencies
 - 33% - 115 of 345 nursing facilities cited with mistreatment of an adult/ANE deficiencies
 - 24 of 197 stand-alone assisted type living facilities cited with serious harm deficiencies
 - 29 of 197 stand-alone assisted type living facilities cited with mistreatment of an adult/ANE def.
 - KDADS Survey/Inspection Units – annual inspections, CMS funding for survey, need strong unit to protect elders and assure health & safety standards
 - Adult Protective Services
 - Placement in Attorney General's office – better coordination with law enforcement resources, APS is currently in Dept. for Children & Families.
- Access to Long-Term Care services for elders and adults
 - Barriers to getting needed care specific to Rural and Urban settings
 - Inadequate provider networks promote out of home placement - home health care and home care
 - Cost of care; unfunded care types -sleep cycle support, routine dental
 - Utilization rate of NH in Kansas and demographics of 85+ population
 - Seniors Right to Choose Care and Setting – In general none of us wants to go to a nursing home – already delay entry far beyond eligibility point/required CARE score 26, avg. score 70+ in NH
 - Dental Care: No Access to routine maintenance, dentures, daily oral healthcare assistance; Resulting in - serious illness, infection, confusion, falling, malnutrition disorientation/delusion

Children & Seniors

Date 1-22-13

Attachment 6

Findings - one third of nursing facility residents lost all natural teeth, over one third of nursing facility residents suffer from untreated dental decay, population has poor oral hygiene and limited access to oral health care.

Recommendations: nursing facilities to monitor that residents receive adequate daily oral care and identify oral health needs requiring professional attention, and access to dental professionals should be made physically and financially accessible. From first-ever 2012 Elder Smiles report by KDHE & Oral Health KS:

- Mental Health Care: Barriers to Access – frailty, transportation, older adults more reluctant to request MH care, not available in nursing facilities/at home, lack of funding to make available in all settings; and no funding for MHC to expand their capacity to serve the needs of this population.

KABC Provides Assistance at No Cost

- Citizen assistance and information on long-term care for elders and adults with disabilities
- Long Term Care Information and Expertise on issues of quality
- Education, Training, Informational Booklets and Newsletters
- Assistance to Self Advocate, and assistance to caregivers
- Referral to Advocacy programs such as KS Long Term Care Ombudsman, KDADS complaint unit/survey, Adult Protective Services, Law Enforcement, Legal Services
- Database of all Nursing Facilities, Assisted Living, Home Plus, Residential Health Care Facilities, Board & Care Homes

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