

RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RFAC) MEETING

May 3, 2017
in the
Lewis and Clark Room of the
Holiday Inn Portland – I-5 South (Wilsonville)
25425 SW 95th Avenue
Wilsonville, Oregon

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Michele Edwards, Chair
Tom Giles, Vice Chair
Bill Bard
Kelly Breshears
Jan Friedman
Claudia Kyle
Dwight Mowry
Susan Schreiber
J. W. Terry

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

STAFF PRESENT:

Fred Steele, Director/State LTC Ombudsman
Rebecca Fetters, Deputy Director
Toni Larson, Residential Facilities Ombudsman
Mary Ann Lebold, Committee Administrator and
Office Manager

VOLUNTEERS PRESENT:

Dan Dunham, Certified Ombudsman
Carol Hankins, Certified Ombudsman
Robert Janssen, Certified Ombudsman
Lynn Maloney, Certified Ombudsman
Linda Setchfield, Certified Ombudsman

GUEST PRESENT:

Keith Putman, Liaison, Governor's Commission for Senior Services

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Edwards called the meeting to order.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS - APPROVAL OF April 17, 2017 MINUTES: Ms. Friedman asked that the minutes of the April 17, 2017 meeting show that Stephen Peters, Rights Advocate with Disability Rights Oregon, attended the meeting via Go-To-Meeting. Kelly Breshears moved the minutes be approved with the addition. The motion was seconded by J. W. Terry and passed.

CORRESPONDENCE, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND RELATED ACTIVITIES: Mr. Bard reminded Committee Members that May is Older Americans Month and distributed an article published by the Administration for Community Living (ACL), *Older Americans Month 2017*. He also distributed an article entitled *10 Things LTC Ombudsmen Can Do to Protect Long-Term Care Consumers: Preventing, Detecting and Reporting Financial Exploitation* published by the National Long-Term Care Ombudsman Resource Center.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Keith Putman, liaison to this Committee from the Governor's Commission for Senior Services (GCSS), announced that he attended the April 20 and 21, 2017

Forum on Aging in Rural America presented by the Oregon Office of Rural Health that was attended by providers, caregivers and other stakeholders. Deputy State LTC Ombudsman Todd Steele made a presentation at the forum which Mr. Putman described as the best presentation at the forum.

NEW BUSINESS: Ms. Edwards talked about the Path of Totality which refers to the August 21, 2017 full eclipse of the sun in certain parts of Oregon. Ms. Edwards noted community concerns and planning in Eastern Oregon about how the influx of possibly 1 million visitors to these areas will impact emergency and general services. She expressed concern about LTC residents' reaction to the mid-morning darkness (example individuals who experience Sundowners Syndrome) that morning. There was discussion and questions about the many impacts on the state, communities and what preparations officials may have in place.

TONI LARSON, RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES OMBUDSMAN: Ms. Larson distributed a map of Oregon depicting the RFO Program's progress on rolling out the Program. Even though the Program has not been formally rolled out in every county in the state, the RFO staff has been taking calls and working on cases from any locale in the state. Ms. Larson answered questions from Committee members. The Program's data system is nearly ready for use by Program staff and will provide "real time" information. Ms. Friedman described a legal matter where Disability Rights Oregon has taken action in response to the reduction in service hours provided to certain individuals with disabilities. Program staff has started development of the volunteer component to the RFO Program.

FRED STEELE, DIRECTOR/STATE LONG-TERM CARE OMBUDSMAN: *Oregon Public Guardian Program Update:* Mr. Steele reported that there have been meetings with State Representatives to discuss the Oregon Public Guardian Program's 2017-2019 budget. Mr. Steele, Ms. Fetters and the OPG staff have consulted with a local expert on public guardian programs to review Program cases and evaluate whether those cases are appropriate cases to be taken on by the OPG Program. Mr. Steele and Ms. Fetters continue to work with representatives of several counties to establish agreements for representatives of those counties to work, under contract, with the OPG Program. The Program is working on how to identify people who are appropriate candidates to be served by the Program through referrals and partnerships beyond what had been previously established for the Program. Mr. Steele was pleased to announce that a grant from the American Bar Association Commission on Law & Aging, with funding from the Administration for Community Living, has been awarded to Oregon WINGS (Working Interdisciplinary Network of Guardianship Stakeholders) to take the next step with that stakeholder group and identify gaps in and reset the priorities of guardianship and fiduciary programs in Oregon.

REBECCA FETTERS, DEPUTY DIRECTOR: Ms. Fetters reported that the Statewide Training Event will begin immediately following this meeting. She reviewed the agenda for the event. Ms. Edwards thanked Ms. Fetters for effectively leading the effort to coordinate arrangements for the Training Event.

FRED STEELE, DIRECTOR/STATE LONG-TERM CARE OMBUDSMAN AND TONI LARSON, RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES OMBUDSMAN: Mr. Steele updated Committee Members on the status of Senate Bills 59, 58, 57 and 834 and House Bills 2170 and 3359.

Ms. Larson provided further explanation of what the Senate and House Bills propose and other issues around the bills.

FRED STEELE, DIRECTOR/STATE LONG-TERM CARE OMBUDSMAN: Mr. Steele and Committee Members discussed the recent *OREGONIAN* articles regarding the Department of Human Services (DHS) not reporting of abuse in LTC facilities. Mr. Steele reported that since there is legislative support for the LTC Ombudsman budget and the RFO budget, his attention to budget issues has focused on the needs of the OPG. Agency management has been planning for anticipated budget reductions in the 2017/2019 biennium, other potential measures to reduce state spending and the hiring freeze currently in place.

COMMITTEE MEMBER DISCUSSION: HOW/WHAT DOES THE RFAC MONITOR AND REPORT: Ms. Edwards distributed sheets showing the definition of the word “monitoring” from Webster’s Third Edition dictionary and explained that, per the statute, this Committee is required to “monitor.” Fred Steele described what he found when researching the legislation that created the statute with the word “monitor” included in the statute and records of this Committee’s initial meetings. Discussion followed about how the Committee would not only “monitor” but also “advise.” There was discussion about the reports provided to the Committee and presenters to the Committee and which are most useful to Committee Members.

CERTIFIED OMBUDSMAN (CO) PANEL – A DISCUSSION WITH THE RFAC:

Ms. Edwards thanked Certified Ombudsmen Dan Dunham, Carol Hankins, Roberta Janssen and Lynne Maloney for joining the Committee today. Everyone present introduced themselves. The Committee asked that the COs inform the Committee about their experience and where there are gaps that might be bridged. The COs described conditions and problems that they find in the facilities that they visit and answered questions posed by Committee Members. Ms. Edwards thanked the Certified Ombudsmen for their time today.

ITEMS FOR JUNE MEETING/ADJOURNMENT: The June meeting will be via teleconference/Go-To-Meeting. Committee officers for the July 2017/July 2018 Committee year will be nominated at the June meeting.

Today’s meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:10 PM.