

RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RFAC) MEETING

(Via Teleconference/Go-To-Meeting)

April 21, 2017

at the

Office of the Long-Term Care (LTC) Ombudsman

Training Room

3855 Wolverine NE, Suite 6

Salem, Oregon 97305

**MINUTES**

**MEMBERS PARTICIPATING:**

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

**STAFF PARTICIPATING:**

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

**MEMBERS NOT PARTICIPATING:**

Jan Friedman

**GUESTS:**

None

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mr. Giles called the meeting to order since Ms. Edwards was not available to conduct the meeting.

**COMMITTEE BUSINESS - APPROVAL OF March 17, 2017 MINUTES:** Mr. Bard asked that the word “filed” be changed to “filled” in the second full paragraph on page 2. Ms. Schreiber moved that the minutes be approved as corrected. The motion was seconded by Dwight Mowry and passed.

**CORRESPONDENCE, ANNOUNCEMENTS, RELATED ACTIVITIES:** Mr. Giles announced that Joe Leykam, a mental health counselor with the Benton County DD Dual Diagnosis Program, has applied for appointment to this Committee.

Susan Schreiber attended Deputy State LTC Ombudsman David Berger’s April 13 Team Meeting in Multnomah County. She is pleased that she was able to meet the volunteers serving in Multnomah County, appreciated the opportunity to learn about the work that Certified Ombudsmen do and acknowledged the high quality of the work done by Mr. Berger. Mr. Bard encouraged Committee Members to attend Certified Ombudsman Team Meetings to increase the connectivity between the Certified Ombudsmen and Committee Members.

\*Participated in person in the Training Room at the LTCO offices.

*NEW BUSINESS:* Mr. Bard asked Committee members to review the five items he distributed prior to the meeting. He would like Committee Members to note the theme for Residents Right Month 2017 – *It's All About Me My life, My Care, My Choices* -- as announced by the National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care and to read Barry Barkan's *Elder Champion's To-Do List*. Mr. Bard hopes that Mr. Steele and Ms. Fetters will forward the items he provided to the Deputy State LTC Ombudsman staff. Tom Giles expressed his appreciation of the informative articles provided to Committee Members by Mr. Bard.

Mr. Bard discussed the recent Oregonian articles about exposing problems in Oregon's long-term care delivery system. Mr. Steele will provide Committee Members a link to the articles. Discussion of the articles followed.

**TONI LARSON, RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES OMBUDSMAN (RFO):** Ms. Larson invited Committee Members to ask questions about the Program Update that was provided to Committee Members prior to the meeting. She summarized the RFO staff's progress on rolling out the RFO program in various areas around Oregon. The database to support the Program is nearly ready for use. The Program Coordinator position and the 0.5 FTE Volunteer Coordinator position are currently vacant, though a temporary limited appointment is filling the Volunteer Coordinator position. The Program Coordinator position was just recently vacated. Ms. Larson is not certain what impact Governor Brown's hiring freeze announced yesterday will have on filling these positions. There has been an increase in the number of calls from residents of facilities and from hospitals. Ms. Larson answered questions from Committee Members.

**OREGON PUBLIC GUARDIAN (OPG):** Mr. Steele announced that Travis Wall submitted his resignation, effective May 12, as Oregon's Public Guardian. While state statute requires that the position be filled within sixty days in consultation with this Committee, Mr. Steele is not certain yet if the Governor's hiring freeze will impact appointment of a new Public Guardian which has the statutory requirement to fill the position, but he is also concerned about the impact of House Bill (HB) 2170 on filling the position with the possibility of HN 2170 becoming law and requiring a subsequent appointment. Mr. Steele has already consulted with a public guardianship expert in Oregon to schedule time for an assessment and recommendation on next steps on growing the Oregon Public Guardian program. Mr. Steele answered Committee Member questions. Mr. Steele and Ms. Fetters have been invited to meet with the co-chairs of the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Services on April 24 to discuss the impact of reducing the Oregon Public Guardian program funding potentially by more than the \$500,000 in the Governor's Recommended Budget. Mr. Steele encouraged Committee Members to provide assistance in meeting the challenges the Oregon Public Guardian Program is currently facing.

**REBECCA FETTERS, DEPUTY DIRECTOR:** Ms. Fetters described preparations for the May 3 – 5 Statewide Training Event (SWTE). Ms. Fetters answered Committee Member questions about the training event. Mr. Steele announced that State Representatives Caddy McKeown and Alissa Keny-Guyer are scheduled to speak during the dinner hour on Thursday, May 4.

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATES:** Mr. Steele explained the legislative process and schedule and his role in shepherding the bills being considered by legislators that will impact OLTCO programs or Oregonians served by the programs should they become law. He talked about the status of HB 2170, which has moved out of Committee and will now be considered by the Ways and Means Committee. Mr. Steele reviewed how the HB 2170 would impact the OLTCO and this Committee should the bill become law. Mr. Steele also updated Committee Members on HBs 3359 and HB 3273; and Senate Bills (SB) 57, 58 and 59 which are bills put forward by the agency. Ms. Larson explained the work she is doing on HB 2170 and SB 58 and the impact of these bills on the RFO Program should they become law. Mr. Steele talked about the status SBs 501, 502 and 503 which would impact guardianship in Oregon. He also brought Committee Member's attention to SB 834 and asked Ms. Larson to update Committee Members on the bill. Mr. Steele will provide a more detailed work sheet regarding the status of the bills he discussed to Committee Members.

**FRED STEELE, DIRECTOR/STATE LTC OMBUDSMAN:** Mr. Steele believes that, with the exception of funding for the Oregon Public Guardian Program, OLTCO ombudsman programs appear to have support for funding to maintain current level of operations for the 2017/2019 biennium. Though inflationary and support services funding will most likely be cut to some degree as will occur for most agencies. The Governor's Executive Order putting a hiring freeze in place for a minimum of sixty days will delay filling the OLTCO Office Manager position which will become vacant when Ms. Lebold retires June 30, the RFO Program Coordinator position made vacant when Amra Marché moved to a Deputy RFO position and the RFO Volunteer Coordinator position which is currently a temporary appointment.

**ITEMS FOR MAY MEETING/ADJOURN:** The Committee's next meeting will be May 3 in Wilsonville. Committee Members will begin discussion of nomination of Committee officers which will be formally nominated during the Committee's June meeting.

Mr. Giles thanked Committee Members for their commitment to the Committee. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:05 AM.