Avenues for Advocacy

a newsletter of the Lower Savannah Regional
Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program
Lower Savannah Council of Governments’ Aging, Disability and Transportation Resource Center

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New Staff

Bria Adams recently joined the staff of LSCOG ADTRC as the Human Services Integrated Programs- Ombudsman Specialist. She is a 2018 graduate of the University of South Carolina with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Public Health. She will be working with the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program as a routine visitor in the facilities as well as conducting in-home assessments for eligibly for Older Americans’ Act programs and assisting with the Medicare Part D open enrollment. Welcome Bria! Contact her at 803-508-7098.

Thank you!

Many thanks to all for keeping me in the loop as to your wellbeing during last week’s storm. I appreciate your patience when we were calling for updates and asking if you were receiving additional residents from the coast. Thanks for being great hosts Anchor Health and Rehab, Riverside Health and Rehab, Pruittthealth of Orangeburg, Pruittthealth of Bamberg, Longwood Plantation and Benton House-Aiken! – Susan

October is Residents' Rights Month

Each year, October is designated as the National Residents’ Rights month. This year, the theme is “Speak Up: Know Your Rights and How to Use Them.” The Long-Term Care Ombudsman is an advocate for residents' rights and uses routine visits as a means to remind residents that they have rights. Handouts are provided to residents that highlight various residents’ rights, provide contact information for the ombudsman as well as to reassure that the ombudsman works on their behalf! Encourage your activity programmer to promote residents' rights in October! We would love the opportunity to speak at resident council meetings, family meetings or staff. Call Susan to set a date- 803-508-7056.
REVIEW TIME- Medicare Part D Open Enrollment

Medicare beneficiaries should review their Medicare Part D plan each year during open enrollment to ensure that their current plan is best for them in 2019. **Open enrollment begins October 15, 2018 and ends on December 7, 2018** for beneficiaries without Medicaid or Extra Help. Many pharmacy companies have a means to review plans with ease. Ask your pharmacy provider if they can review your residents' Part D plan for 2019. Even beneficiaries with Medicaid or Extra Help need to review their plans annually. Plan review is easy at [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov) or by calling 1-800-MEDICARE.

Facility Staff Updates/ Keeping in Touch

In order to provide effective advocacy for residents in the region's facilities, the ombudsman want to connect the resident and/or family member with the right staff person who can address the issue. In addition, there are occasions such as weather issues you’re your ombudsman needs to share information with you quickly. Email correspondence is usually most effective. The LTCO Program Staff are currently working to ensure that we have a valid email address to each facility administrator and/or owner. Please keep your ombudsman up to date on key Administration staff names and the email address to the administrator.

New LOOK- AND a NAME!

The Quarterly Newsletter, now named “Avenues for Advocacy”/ is a means to provide region wide program and staff updates as well as advocacy for all residents in long term care facilities in our region. In order to be more email and printer friendly, the newsletter will be limited to two pages and sent via email as a pdf attachment. Please email Susan Garen at shgaren@lscog.org if you would like to add additional staff to the distribution list. Once each administrator or operator receives the newsletter, I encourage you to forward it to all of your staff in your facility.

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Serving residents in long-term care facilities in Aiken, Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Calhoun and Orangeburg Counties.