

Elder News

Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs

“Serving Seniors Successfully”

Fall 2014

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Page 1: Falls Prevention/ Oral Health Care
Page 2: MIPPA
Page 3: Preventing Elder Abuse/Ombudsman Training
Page 4: Spotlight

Falls Prevention Awareness Day

The first Falls Free Prevention Awareness Day was approved and observed in 2008. To continue efforts in fall prevention, the National Falls Prevention Awareness Day for 2014 is Tuesday, September 23.



Did you know that one in three individuals over age 65 falls each year and it increases to one in two persons by age 80. The cost in spent annually on treating older adults for falls is approximately \$28.2 Billion per year. If you would like to obtain more resources and tools regarding Falls Prevention and share with your clients and staff, visit [National Council on Aging](http://www.nationalcouncilonaging.org).



Oral Health in Louisiana

Did you know that there is a direct link in oral health care and Diabetes? According to the American Diabetes Association, people with diabetes are at a higher risk for gum disease and other dental problems. Gum Disease can also make blood glucose levels harder to control. Oral health problems can also make an individual prone to other oral infections such as thrush, slower healing times and dry mouth. The Louisiana Oral Health Coalition Elder Care Task Force has created a Louisiana Smiles for Life training module to assist our agencies in providing Oral Health education sessions to our clients. The Louisiana Smiles for Life Tool Kit can be found at [Louisiana Smiles for Life](http://LouisianaSmilesforLife.org).

Medicare Improvements for Patients & Providers Act of 2008

(MIPPA)

The MIPPA 2013 Grant will be ending September 2014 with many successes. In taking a moment, the following agencies were instrumental in the successful grant period. Louisiana aging partners reached over 19,000 constituents thru Hosting and Participation at community events, helped over 3000 Medicare eligible seniors apply/enroll into Medicare Part D, Low Income Subsidy Program (LIS) and Medicare Savings Plan (MSP). Of the clients assisted with enrollment, additional follow-up was conducted. The results from the follow-up activities result in **58%** of LIS applications were deemed eligible and **56%** of MSP applications were eligible. A HUGE Thank you to the following agencies for contracting with GOEA to facilitate this grant:

Beauregard Council on Aging

Bossier Council on Aging

Caddo Council on Aging

Calcasieu Council on Aging

Cameron Council on Aging

DeSoto Council on Aging

Jefferson Council on Aging

Jefferson Davis Council on Aging

Lafourche Council on Aging

Morehouse Council on Aging

New Orleans Council on Aging

Ouachita Council on Aging

Plaquemiens Council on Aging

Saint James Government

Saint John Council on Aging

Saint Tammany Council on Aging

Terrebonne Council on Aging

Webster Council on Aging

Cajun Area Agency on Aging

Capital Area Agency on Aging

CENLA Area Agency on Aging

North Delta

Please stay tuned for additional MIPPA funds. GOEA is preparing to submit an application for a 3 year MIPPA grant. As a reminder, open enrollment for Medicare Part D will begin in October.

Preventing Elder Abuse



According to the Administration on Aging, an estimated 5 million older Americans are victims of elder abuse, neglect, or exploitation. Experts believe that for every case of elder abuse or neglect reported, there are as many as 23 unreported cases. How to prevent Elder Abuse?

- Learn the signs of elder abuse and neglect
- Call and visit elderly friend or family member often
- Provide respite or breaks for the caregiver
- Check with the bank manager to ensure the tellers can detect elder financial abuse
- Talk to the elder's medical professional about any possible family violence
- Communicate with the local Protective Services or Long-Term Care Ombudsman

If you suspect Elder Abuse, report your concerns. You do not need to prove that abuse is occurring; it is up to the professionals to investigate the suspicions. The Aging and Adult Protective Services for Louisiana Toll Free Hotline is 1-800-898-4910.



**LOUISIANA
OMBUDSMAN
PROGRAM**
REACHING OUT TO THOSE
WE'VE LOVED THE LONGEST

Ombudsman Certification Class

The State Long Term Care Ombudsman's office conducted the Ombudsman certification training for six participants from New Orleans, Monroe, Baton Rouge and the

Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs (GOEA). The training was held at GOEA's office June 23 – 26, 2014 in Baton Rouge. The instructor was Charman Cruseturner, Certified Ombudsman and the prior Ombudsman Coordinator from Lake Charles, LA. The classroom activities included lecture on laws and rules, exchange of ideas and role play by the participants. At the end of the class the participants had completed the classroom training and will have three additional steps to complete in the following weeks before they are certified Ombudsman. We wish these participants good luck on the completion of the course.

A **Spotlight** on our **Aging Network**



"Darlene Schexnayder, Executive Director of **Ascension Council on Aging**, joins members of the CAPE Project in Donaldsonville during the annual picnic for senior members to celebrate Older American's Month in May. CAPE stands for Council on Aging for Progressive Evolution. These members have worked very hard and raised a lot of money to present two projects, one for the Gonzales COA center in which a display case for the Gonzales complex in order for Veterans to display their memorabilia and another where they presented the Donaldsonville center with newly installed benches for the outdoor pavilion in time for the Senior Picnic Day and for them to enjoy in the future on a daily basis. Special thanks and gratitude go out to the dedicated members of the CAPE Project.

As part of the Older American's Month Celebration, the **Beauregard Council on Aging** hosted a Fish Fry on May 30, 2014. The event hosted approximately 185 seniors with great food and live music provided by Mickey and the Boys. Volunteers for the agency helped prepared and serve the food. For future events, call Beauregard Council on Aging at 337-463-6578

The **Caddo Council on Aging** hosted a fan drive and would like to send a "Big Ol' Thank you! To some splendid folks at AT&T Pioneers. AT&T Pioneers donated 25 fans on July 14, 2014 to the Caddo COA for distribution to the seniors who are living without air conditioning. For more information about services and resources in the Caddo area, call 318-676-7900 or visit their website at 222.caddocoa.org.



The **Jefferson Davis Council on Aging** hosted a fan drive and Bake Bingo. Both events were to benefit the seniors and senior services in the parish. For more information about activities and services, contact the Jefferson Davis Council on Aging at 337-824-5504.



The **Pointe Coupee Council on Aging** hosted their Annual Membership Meeting in June and had approximately 160 seniors present. Representative Major Thibaut and Senator Rick Ward III (pictured left with Becky Bergeron, Executive Director) spoke to the seniors about the constitutional amendment which will be on the Ballot in November to increase the Governor's Cabinet.



The **Saint Martin Council on Aging** held an Easter Parade of Hats on April 17, 2014. Fun was had by all and held an Older Americans Luncheon on May 15th at the St. Francis of the Assisi Community Room. The seniors were treated to a catered lunch, music, games and great time. The Saint Martin Council on Aging will be hosting a Watermelon 4th of July Party on July 3rd. For more information about activities, contact the St. Martin Council on Aging at 337-332-3063.

SAVE THE DATE!!!



The **Louisiana Aging Network Association (LANA)** will hold the 2014 Annual Conference on October 14-16, 2014 at the Hilton Garden Inn in West Monroe. For more information, contact Mr. Mike Rome at 318-574-3666.

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