

# Elder News

## Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs "Serving Seniors Successfully"

Fall 2015

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Page 1: National Family Caregivers Month  
Page 2: Open Enrollment for Medicare Part D  
Page 3: Hurricanes: Senior Employment  
Page 4: Spotlight on Aging Network

## NATIONAL FAMILY CAREGIVERS MONTH November 2015

November is a month to honor family caregivers and the contributions they make to our society. The first celebration of family caregivers was celebrated in 1994 and received the first presidential proclamation in 1997 by President Bill Clinton. The national theme for National Family Caregivers Month - November 2015 is "Respite Care for Caregivers". Respite is an opportunity for the caregiver to take a break from normal daily activities of caring for their loved one. Many feel that respite is a luxury, but in reality caregivers are at risk for health issues such as chronic stress and fatigue. Being able to "re-charge" is a key to the well-being of the caregiver as well as preventing burn-out and family stress overload. During National Family Caregivers Month, join together with other caregiver resource groups to bring awareness of family caregiver issues, celebrate the efforts of local family caregivers, educate family caregivers about self-identification and increase support for family caregivers.

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**Social Security in 2016:** For individuals that are receiving Social Security Administration (SSA) benefits -Social Security and Supplemental Security Income, there will be no cost of living increase in benefits for January 2016. For more information about SSA benefits, visit [www.SSA.gov](http://www.SSA.gov) or call 1-800-772-1213.

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**MEDICARE Part D:** Open Enrollment begins every year on October 15 and ends December 7. This open enrollment period is for Medicare beneficiaries to review their Medicare Part D plans and make changes as needed so that the Medicare recipient receives the best possible benefit plan available. As we know, many insurance plans change their coverage, deductibles, premiums and medications covered. For **FREE** counseling and Medicare Part D plan comparisons, Medicare eligible individuals may visit the SenioRx/Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRC) website at [www.LouisianaAnswers.com](http://www.LouisianaAnswers.com) or call the state toll free number at 1-877-340-9100.

**MIPPA: Louisiana Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008 (MIPPA) Grant:** MIPPA Louisiana for the 2014 Grant award has concluded year 1 of the 3 year grant. Louisiana partners have successfully provided Enrollment Assistance for the Low Income Subsidy (LIS) Program, Medicare Savings Plan (MSP) Program, Medicare Part D Comparison/Counseling, Medicare Part D Enrollment Assistance, Hosted Outreach and Educational events for Medicare enrollment assistance and to educate Medicare eligible individuals on the Medicare Wellness and Preventatives Services that are covered benefits from Medicare Part B. Follow-up for clients who received enrollment assistance for LIS and MSP program reflect that 75% of enrollment assistance clients were eligible LIS and 79% were eligible for MSP. The MIPPA activities reflect the following:

- 4890 Enrollment Assistance (LIS/MSP) Applications
- 2053 Individuals who received Medicare Part D Counseling
- 945 Medicare Part D De-Enrollment/Enrollment Assistance
- 413 Hosted Events for Outreach and Education
- 136 Community Event Participation
- 109 Referral Partnerships Established
- 6 Enrollment Partnerships Established
- 11,758 Individuals went to the Hosted events

MIPPA 2014 grant efforts to reach Medicare eligible individuals will continue thru September 2017. As open enrollment for Medicare Part D continues through December 7, 2015 individuals continue to become eligible (age 65) daily. Education and outreach to the Medicare eligible individuals in the state will continue year round.

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**Hurricanes:** Louisiana hurricane season will end in November, but other emergency/disaster challenges may occur such as flooding, ice, power outages, and most recently potential fires due to lack of rain and moisture. In preparation for any weather challenges or man-made disasters such as train derailment, chemical spills, overturned tanker trucks, etc, our agencies and clients must continue to be prepared. GOEA is a coalition member of the Emergency Management for Disabled and Elderly Coalition (EMDAC). EMDAC has developed training module for the aging and disabled network to use as a tool to assist the aging clients in planning for emergencies and disasters. This module has been utilized at meal sites and community meetings in Jefferson and East Baton Rouge parishes and was deemed successful by the participants. For more information regarding the planning tool developed by EMDAC, contact Michelle Guillory at [MTGuillory@goea.la.gov](mailto:MTGuillory@goea.la.gov). We must strive to always be prepared no matter the emergency or disaster.



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**Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP)** is a federally funded program designed to help individuals who are 55 years of age and older with job training and placement. The goal of SCSEP is to provide training and economic self-sufficiency through placement in unsubsidized employment in public and private entities. In FY 2015, 25% of SCSEP workers were placed in unsubsidized employment with 151 persons enrolled in the program. For more information about the SCSEP program, visit [www.doleta.gov/seniors](http://www.doleta.gov/seniors) or call toll free 1-877-872-5627.

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



The **Office of The State Ombudsman** would like to say, “Thank you” to all of the speakers that presented for the Fall Conference held Oct 20-22 in Pineville, LA. We would also like to say thank you to all the Ombudsmen that were able to attend. The participants were able to receive training in various topics such as:



- Long-Term Care Medicaid for Nursing Facility Care and Home/Community Based Services
- QIO Updated Training for LTC Ombudsmen
- OBH-PASRR Training for All Ombudsmen
- Communication Resources That May Be Available Through Your Regional ADRCs for Hearing Visual, and Speech Impairment
- APS/EPS Process When Providing Protections for Nursing Facility Residents
- Understanding the Legal Process As It Relates to Power of Attorney(POAs)
- Involuntary Discharges for Residents in LTC Facilities.

The fall training provided a wealth of knowledge for new ombudsmen as well as refresher courses for Ombudsmen with tenure. In closure we would like to recognize the following Ombudsman Coordinators, Ombudsmen, and Long-Term Care Visitor for their commitment, dedication, and service to the Ombudsman Program:

- LaNell Winston 30 years of service for the Monroe Region
- Carolyn Smith, Ombudsman Coordinator, Alexandria Region 25 years
- Mavis Lee, Ombudsman, Baton Rouge Region 25 years
- Patricia Broussard, Ombudsman Coordinator, Lafayette Region 10 years
- Glenda Teagle, Ombudsman Baton Rouge Region 5 years
- Patty Sibley, Ombudsman Lake Charles Region 5 years
- Anne Miller, Ombudsman Baton Rouge Region First Year
- Patricia Jackson, Long-Term Care Visitor for the Monroe Region

Thanks to All,  
Karen F. Price, State Long-Term Care Ombudsman





The **Thomas Crofton Laughlin Award** was presented at the 2015 Fall LaCOADA Conference which was held on October 6-7, 2015 in New Orleans, Louisiana. This award was presented to a deserving LaCOADA member who personifies Thomas Laughlin's mission to the aging: to give love, affection, understanding to the aging; dedication to the principles of serving the aging; and the ability to find more opportunities to serve the

needs of the aging and to work with the aging networks to accomplish this statewide. Nominations were accepted statewide and this year's award was presented to **Ms. Beverly Domengeaux**, Executive Director of Saint Mary Council on Aging. It was stated in Ms. Domengeaux's nomination that of the many things she has accomplished, "Ms. Domengeaux has taken the young, the middle-aged and the elderly and made the whole community responsible for each other. She gives her elderly the sense of belonging, empowerment and the sense that their lives matter, and in doing so, they step up to being leaders in the community".

Congratulations Ms. Beverly Domengeaux, you have received an award of distinction and accomplished the Thomas Laughlin mission as well as that of the Louisiana Council on Aging Director's Association.



The **Caddo Council on Aging** is host to MIPPA outreach education sessions with their new Medicare 101 retractable screen. The screens were developed and printed with funding received from the MIPPA 2014 Grant. The screen displayed with Ms. Mary Alice Rountree was purchased with agency funds, but Red, White and Blue screens are available to MIPPA partners across the state. For more information about these exciting display models, contact Michelle Guillory at [MTGuillory@goea.la.gov](mailto:MTGuillory@goea.la.gov) or by calling 225-342-7122.



The **Caldwell Council on Aging** hosted a Bake Auction which raised \$4,675 on October 23, 2015. Celebrations continued with the annual "Hay Ride" on October 30,



2015, which was sponsored by Mr. Brian Causey, owner of Haven Home Health. For more information regarding services and activities at the Caldwell Council on Aging, call 318-649-2584.

The **Cameron Council on Aging** hosted the *Trunk-R-Treat* event on October 30, 2015 at the Grand Lake Fire Department. Special thanks to the sponsors: Grand Lake Fire Department, Grand Lake Community Church, Grand Lake Head Start and Sheriff Ron Johnson. For more information about activities and services, contact the Cameron Council on Aging directly at 337-905-6000.

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The **Grant Council on Aging** will host a raffle fundraiser for a home-made quilt made by Mrs. Odessa Sykes, a participant of the Grant Council on Aging. Mrs. Beth Fletcher Davidson, Former Director of the COA donated the quilt squares. The drawing will be held Wednesday, November 25, 2015 at 9:00am. For more information about the Grant Council on Aging and activities, call 318-627-5757.

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The **New Orleans Council on Aging** hosted the Carrollton-Hollygrove Senior Center Ribbon Cutting Ceremony with city officials on October 16,



2015. The **Carrollton-Hollygrove Senior Center** was originally established in 1950 as the Robinson Infirmary and Clinic. This clinic was closed due to segregation and Jim Crow laws and in 1954 was later converted to a guest house. In 1977, Ms. Emelda Washington worked to have the building renovated and converted to a senior center, which provided adult day care services, meals, educational programming, medical services and a social gathering place for seniors in the Hollygrove neighborhood. Due to extensive damage from Hurricane Katrina in 2005, the building was scheduled to be demolished but thru the efforts of the New Orleans Council on Aging and partners, this senior center was included in the Katrina recovery projects.

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The **Rapides Council on Aging** has expanded the III-E program to serve clients on the weekend by offering Saturday and Sunday respite care for the caregiver to have time to shop, attend church or visit with relatives and friends. This new expansion began for the Council on Aging on October 24, 2015. For more information, please call the Rapides Council on Aging at 318-445-7985.

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The **Rapides Senior Centers** hosted the Senior Fair Day on October 16, 2015. There were over 2000 seniors in attendance and 40 vendors present to provide information, door prizes and health screenings. Each year at this event, an award is given to an Outstanding Senior Citizen who has shown outstanding devotion to

the senior population. This year's award was presented to Ms. Juanita Vanderhoeven for over 35 years of service to the Senior Citizens of Rapides Parish. The Rapides Senior Centers would like to express a special thank you to all the sponsors, volunteers, vendors and the Rapides Parish Fair Board for their hard work and dedication to the seniors of Rapides Parish.

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The **Terrebonne Council on Aging** held their Senior *Fun Day at the Park* event Saturday, October 10<sup>th</sup>. The event was held at the Senior Park and Gardens behind the Shady Acres Senior Center and Shady Lane Elderly Housing. There was music and dancing under the pavilion. Children played games alongside

of their grandparents; and there were plenty of prizes to win. Grilled hamburgers and chili hotdogs were served for lunch. The weather was beautiful and a *good time* was had by all.

### **Terrebonne Council on Aging - UPCOMING EVENTS**

November 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Annual Krewe of Hercules Thanksgiving Dinner
December 8 <sup>th</sup>	EDUCATION and Bingo sponsored by Teche Action Clinic
December 20 <sup>th</sup>	Annual Krewe of Hercules Christmas Dinner
January 29, 2016	<b>TCOA</b> /Krewe of Hercules Mardi Gras Social

For more information about activities at the Terrebonne Council on Aging, call 985-868-8411.

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