

Elder News

Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs "Serving Seniors Successfully" Spring 2015 Volume 12, Issue 1



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The month of May is observed as Older Americans Month. The theme for 2015 Older Americans Month is "Get Into The Act". When Older Americans Month was established in 1963, only 17 million Americans had reached their 65th birthday. Approximately 33% lived in poverty and few programs met their needs. President John F. Kennedy and the National Council of Senior Citizens led to designating May as Senior Citizens Month which was later changed to Older Americans Month. According to the US Census 2010 Reports, in Louisiana, there are 800,850 persons over the age of 60 and Louisiana ranks 26th in the nation in the 60 plus age population. 14% of Louisiana's elderly are below the poverty level.



Hurricane Season is just around the corner. Hurricane season is from **June 1 thru November**

30th of each year. Are you and your family prepared? Have you prepared a family disaster kit? If you have a disaster kit, have you refreshed the disaster kit with new batteries, current medication

and current insurance policy information? To be prepared for a disaster, one should have 72 hours of emergency supply in medication, food and water for each person in the household. What about the 4 legged family members better known as pets? Have arrangements for your pets been made if you and your family must evacuate? For more information about disaster kits and preparedness visit www.FEMA.gov or www.getagameplan.org.

NO WRONG DOOR

The No Wrong Door (NWD) grant will develop a No Wrong Door System (NWDS) based on Person Centered counseling for people of all ages, abilities and income levels to access the services and supports to provide the best quality of life as defined by the consumer. The No Wrong Door System will be streamlined removing barriers and connect clients to appropriate resources and service provider agencies. This grant was written in partnership by the Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs and the Department of Health and Hospitals/Office of Aging and Adult Services. The NWD grant will design a three year plan to implement the suggestions of stakeholders. Focus groups in New Orleans, Shreveport, Monroe, Lake Charles and Baton Rouge were held to discuss barriers and solutions for long term care supports, resources and services. Information from the stakeholders, service providers, advocates and/or clients will be used as the basis of the three year plan. We would like to thank all participants of the focus groups for their open dialog and input at the group meetings.

If you have a story that you would like to share regarding accessing resources/services and the barriers you experienced, please send your comments and/or story to MPMcGarity@goea.la.gov or SBBuchert@goea.la.gov.

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



The **Rapides Senior Center** annual picnic was held April 30, 2015 at Indian Creek Campground Pavilion. Live music, lunch, horseshoes, fishing, bingo and a special Medicare presentation to provide valuable information about Medicare Wellness and Preventative Services. For information about other activities hosted by the Rapides Senior Centers, call the Rapides Senior Center Administration at 318-487-1561.



The **Saint Charles Council on Aging** celebrated Mardi Gras by hosting their annual Mardi Gras Ball. Pictured left are Queen Barbara and King Harney. In April, the Council on Aging hosted a “Day in the Park” which was sponsored in part by the Saint Charles Parish Department of Parks and Recreation.

Events to come...



The **Calcasieu Council on Aging** will host a “Day Out At The Park” on May 8, 2015 at the Prien Lake Park (Indian Bay Pavillion) to celebrate Older Americans Month. Activities will include live music, ½ mile walk, field games and lunch. For more information call the Calcasieu Council on Aging at 337-474-2583.

The **Caldwell Council on Aging** will be hosting a special day with the Sheriff on May 19, 2015 full of fun activities and lunch. For more information about services and activities call the Caldwell Council on Aging at 318-649-2584.

The **Cameron Council on Aging** will be hosting the “Cruzing with the Seniors” on May 9, 2015 at the Grand Lake Fireman’s Center. Registration begins at 9:00am. Lunch will be served after the completion of the ride. For more information contact the Cameron Council on Aging at 337-598-5158



The **Lafourche Council on Aging** will be hosting the annual Lafourche Council on Aging Senior Prom on May 16, 2015 from 11:00-3:00pm at the FVW Hall in Larose Louisiana. For more information about the Senior Prom call the Lafourche Council on Aging at 985-532-0457.

The **New Orleans Council on Aging** will be hosting their annual Senior Fest 2015 on May 8, 2015 at the New Orleans Lakefront Arena. Sponsors for this event include People's Health, Entergy New Orleans, Amerigroup Louisiana and Walgreens. For more information about the Senior Fest, call the New Orleans Council on Aging at 504-821-4121.

The **Saint Charles Council on Aging** will be hosting an Older Americans Month celebration on May 29, 2015 at the Hahnville Meal Site from 9:30-2:30 featuring a Health and Information Fair, Fried Chicken luncheon, Showcase Variety Show, Door Prizes and Refreshments. For more information about the Older Americans Month celebration, call the Saint Charles Council on Aging at 985-783-6683.



LANA will be hosting their fall conference on August 5, 6 and 7, 2015 at the Marriott Hotel in Baton Rouge. LANA will host a gubernatorial forum on August 6th at noon.

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