

Elder News

Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs

"Serving Seniors Successfully"



Volume 7, Issue 1 Spring 2010

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Message from the Executive Director

Welcome to the January 2010 issue

By now everyone is back to work. As the holiday season comes to end, we are now in the process of making our New Year's resolutions. Senior citizens have given so much; so let's all resolve to better serve older people and their families this coming year. With an integrated, coordinated and responsive system working towards keeping older adults in their home and community, we have the ability to enhance people's lives. Fortunately, many dedicated individuals in our aging services network strive diligently to accomplish this goal! By combining our efforts and creativity, we (at all levels) can and will make it all come together.

The Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs is in the process of making many changes in the aging network. These changes are intended to improve the quality of life for our seniors. We are currently in the process of releasing an innovative new web site. We shall continue our efforts to find ways to increase the services and information provided to the senior citizens by refocusing the Aging and Disability Resource Centers. Even with these positive innovations, not all needs of elders will be met. We are ever mindful of those who are unable to help themselves. We hope to raise the visibility of the full range of options available to older people. Everyone has the right to age with dignity: so please join me in making this a reality. The aging process begins at birth and ends after leaving this earth. Our efforts, to be effective, must address each person's need at the stage we find them to best assure a healthy and happy old age.

Dr. James J. Bulot



OUR NEW LOCATION

525 FLORIDA STREET,
4th Floor
BATON ROUGE, LA

Message from the Administration on Aging (AOA)...

On behalf of the Administration on Aging, Derek Lee, Region VI, "encourage all elderly, especially minority elderly, and other groups to participate in the **2010 Census**. "It is vital to have all counted which impacts federal funding."

United States
Census 2010
IT'S IN OUR HANDS

For more information about the 2010 Census, visit www.2010census.gov

Fun FACTS...

May Is Older American's Month 2010
Theme: "Aged Strong! Live Long!"

National Older Americans Month was established in 1963; John F. Kennedy selected the month of May as "National Senior Citizens Month." It wasn't until 1980 that President Jimmy Carter designated it National Older American's Month.



The Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs will feature Older Louisianans who have "Aged Strong! Live Long" in it's May

Newsletter. Please submit your stories to elderlyaffairs@goea.gov by March 30, 2010.

GET THE HELP YOU NEED!

- Find affordable or free medicines
- Get counseling regarding Medicare Part D and your options
- Find the support you need to live independently and at home
- Resolve any needs you have about aging or living with a disability

Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC)
visit: www.louisianaanswers.com

"Here's a New Year's resolution you can keep: Resolve to be Ready"



For more information on how to prepare your family, home, and business for all types of emergencies, visit www.ready.gov.

FEMA Ag Council Ready www.ready.gov

January is National Glaucoma Awareness Month.

Emergency Preparedness...
Although Hurricane Season has ended, you must still be Prepared... Emergencies can happen at anytime. Take the time to commit to a new resolution that will benefit your family!

Professional Achievements in Aging

THE OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM

On October 28, 2009 at the Annual Ombudsman Conference, Peggy Essick received an award for 25 years of service with the Louisiana Ombudsman Program-the first such award ever given. Although the program traces its history back to 1976 in Louisiana, the process of certifying individuals to serve as an ombudsman began in 1982.

Linda Sadden, the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman, says of Peggy that "she is a dedicated and an effective advocate who is always seeking to first understand what the nursing home resident wants."

Peggy, who is employed by the Advocacy Center to serve Baton Rouge area, staff describes her as an inspiring leader with "stellar supervisory skills" who remains a constant, clear voice for nursing home residents. Whenever their morale is low, Peggy reminds her staff to look back to the difference they have made in someone's life. With 25 years and counting, Peggy has touched many, many lives.

Upon receiving the award, Peggy stated "she had seen a great many changes over the last 25 years and that the program has grown stronger."



National Credentials...

The Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRC) are proud to announce the Alliance of Information and Referral Systems (AIRS) Certification Program (in alignment with the standards provided by the National Organization for Competency Assurance) of the following ADRC personnel:

Leslie Ann Ciotti and Joe Carr - Jefferson Area Aging and Disability Resource Center

Mary Ann Cebrynski - Cenla Area Aging and Disability Resource Center

Kathy Dorsey - Calcasieu Area Aging and Disability Resource Center

Makitha Horton - New Orleans Area Aging and Disability Resource Center

Jan Latimer - Capital Area Aging and Disability Resource Center

Lynda Southard - Cajun Area Aging and Disability Resource Center

Lisa Zaback - Jefferson Area Aging and Disability Resource Center

The AIRS mission states: "The AIRS Certification Program, operating in accordance with national credentialing practices, measures and recognizes competence in the I&R profession, improving the professionalism of the field and the quality of service provided to the public."

For more information about the ADRC, please contact Sharon Buchert at 225-342-7100.

The Ombudsman Program is federally mandated to investigate and resolve complaints brought by or on behalf of residents of Nursing Homes and Adult Residential Care Facilities. **For more information about the Louisiana Ombudsman Program, please contact Linda Sadden at 225-342-9723 or visit the Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs website: www.goea.la.gov Toll Free 1-866-632-0922**

SENIOR COMMUNITY SERVICE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

Catherine, a housewife in her seventies found herself suddenly divorced with all the bills to pay by herself, enrolled in the Senior Community Service Employment Program and despite her lack of previous job experience, trained to do book processing and provide technical support to the Parish library system was offered a permanent job after passing the State Civil Service test. "It's more than just a job", she explains of her position at the library. "I'm really uplifted to have a job I'm good at. I love to learn and I thrive on helping others. The Senior Employment Program made all the difference to me...and the blessings continue to flow!"

Ray, an octogenarian rural resident, had undergone open-heart surgery and suffered the death of his wife while in the Senior Community Service Employment Program. Assigned to a vocational school near his home as a tool manager, Ray was responsible for keeping track of all the high priced tools and supplies that students and faculty used. When Ray's time with the Senior Employment was nearing its end, the vocational school offered him a permanent job with full benefits; Ray was then 82 years old. The school noticed that when Ray wasn't around, tools and equipment were disappearing. One administrator said, "We can't afford to do without Ray!"

The Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP), also known as Title V is a federally funded employment program is currently recruiting low-income eligible persons age 55 and over to participant in the program. For more information about the program and how you can become involved contact **Ms. Rosemary Davis at 225-342-7030 or email her at rkdavis@goea.la.gov.**

Did You Know...

AoA Awards GOEA \$100,000 to Help Older Americans Access Legal Services

September 2009, the Administration on Aging announced the award of nearly \$100,000 to the Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs to help at-risk older Americans better access legal services. This grant, will bring together the aging and legal service delivery systems, and improve Louisiana's efforts to protect the independence, health, and financial security of older adults.

LA Civil Justice Center Call (LCJC) provides FREE legal information and attorney referral services to Louisiana residents.

For more information, visit
www.lawhelp.org/LA or call 1-800-483-5529.

LCJC también informa sobre cuestiones legales a personas de habla hispana.
Llámenos al 1-800-310-7029.

GOEA to implement Pilot Project "Community Living Program"

In the fall of 2008, GOEA was awarded the Community Living Program and Alzheimer's Disease Support Services Program grants from the Administration on Aging. The nearly \$2 million federal and state funds will be used to fund two pilot programs, one with Capital Area Agency on Aging and Northwest area of the state. The Community Living Program services will include homemaker, personal care, transportation, chore, meals, and more. The Capital AAA Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) and Northwest ADRC will be the single point of entry for the program. Capital AAA ADRC is currently offering the program and Northwest ADRC will begin accepting applications in January 2010.

Eligible applicants for the Community Living Program must live in: a) Capital Area: East or West Baton Rouge, East or West Feliciana, Iberville, Point Coupee, Ascension, or in the Northwest: Caddo, Bossier, Webster, Claiborne, DeSoto, Red River, Bienville, Sabine, or Natchitoches; b) Be over 21 years of age; c) Not be on Medicaid; d) Meet financial criteria set for the grant.

If additional funds become available, the program will extend to all parishes. For a detailed fact sheet or questions regarding the Community Living Program please contact Matt Estrade at mwestrade@goea.la.gov or 225-342-3570.

What is MIPPA? (Medicare Improvement for Patient's and Provider's Act)

The main goal of the Louisiana Medicare Improvement for Patient's and Provider's Act (MIPPA) Outreach Grant is to provide outreach to individuals throughout the state of Louisiana with a special emphasis on the rural communities and to increase public awareness and enrollment into the benefits available under Medicare Part D, Low Income Subsidy (LIS) and Medicare Savings Plan (MSP). The Louisiana MIPPA Outreach Grant will achieve outreach efforts thru contractual agreements with the Area Agencies on Aging (AAA), Councils on Aging (COA) and the Aging & Disability Resource Centers (ADRC) in the state of Louisiana.

For more information regarding MIPPA, please contact Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs Program Monitor - Michelle Guillory, 225-219-4260.



What are some signs of elder abuse?

- Physical actions, such as pushing, hitting, restraining an elder;
- Emotional and verbal intimidation, such as screaming, threatening, insulting an elder;
- Withdrawal or isolation by an elder;
- Sexual exploitation, particularly threats or actions, which are sexual in nature, against an elder without their consent;
- Neglect, such as withholding of medicine, medical care, food, personal care, utilities, or daily necessities, or overmedication, or self-neglect to the point of danger;
- Financial extortion or exploitation, such as theft or misuse of money, property or the possessions of the elder.

For more information,
please call the State Office Hotline number:
1-800-259-4990

It's NEVER TOO LATE,
Be PREPARED for all
Emergencies...

www.getagameplan.org



UPCOMING CONFERENCES & EVENTS IN AGING

National Evacuation Conference

February 3-5, 2010
JW Marriott - New Orleans

For more information:
www.nationalevacuationconference.org

2010 Aging in America Conference National Council on Aging (NCOA) & American Society on Aging (ASA)

March 15-19, 2010 - Chicago, IL

For more information:
www.agingconference.org

LANA

LA Aging Network Association
"Aging in a New World"

March 9-11, 2010 -
Paragon Casino • Marksville, LA

Conference cost: \$150.00/person
(includes \$25.00 annual
membership fee and some meals).
A discount given to agencies who
register 3+ staff.

For more information, contact:
Pat Jones, 318-335-3195 or
Sabrina Sonnier, 318-253-9771

Who Should Attend:
Directors, Aging
Service Providers,
Bookkeepers,
SAMS Coordinators

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren & Other Relatives as Parents Annual Conference

April 23, 2010
Baton Rouge, La
Holiday Inn South
8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Hope you can attend.
Grandparents come out and hear
about available services and get
your legal questions answered.

For more information regarding
registration, contact Ms. Gerrie B.
Allen at (225) 346-0680 or
Ms. Dot Thibodaux at
(225) 355-5442.

Louisiana Enhancing Aging with Dignity through Empowerment and Respect (LEADER)

1st Annual Conference
April 7 and 8, 2010 - Baton Rouge

LEADER is a broad-based coalition
dedicated to advancing culture
change in elder care settings with-
in the state of Louisiana. Culture
change is a national movement for
the transformation of older adult
services, based on person-directed
values and practices where the
voices of elders and those working
with them are considered and
respected.

For more information visit
www.laculturechangecoalition.org

GOEA

Governor's Office
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(225) 342-7100

<http://louisiana.gov/elderlyaffairs>



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