



Elder News

Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs (GOEA)

Fall 2022

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Message from the Director...

There are 2 new programs at GOEA!

I. Expanding the Public Health Workforce within ACL's Networks

The Biden-Harris Administration announced January 2022 \$785 million in American Rescue Plan (ARPA) funding to support community-based organizations building vaccine confidence across communities of color, rural areas, and low-income populations; bolster the efforts of Tribal communities leading the way in mitigating the spread of the virus; expand public health systems' ability to respond to the needs of people with disabilities and older adults who have been among the highest risk for infection or death from COVID-19; and continue the mission to build a more diverse and sustainable public health workforce, including a new apprenticeship program that will train thousands of COVID-19 community health workers and prepare them for long-term careers in public health. President Biden stated "This funding builds on the significant investments we have already made in equity-focused programs and initiatives since entering office." The Biden-Harris administration recognizes that with more than 50 years of experience and unmatched knowledge of the unique needs of older adults, the aging network is a critical partner with the public health system, providing technical assistance and guidance on meeting the unique needs of older adults and people with disabilities. The network provides a variety of services that directly support public health, such as health and wellness education and information, counseling, case management and assistance with accessing health care services, including COVID-19 vaccinations. The Administration for Community Living (ACL), the Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs' (GOEA) federal partner, was allocated \$150 Million to address the unique needs of older adults and people with disabilities in response and recovery from the virus and improve their health and access to services moving forward. The intent is to increase the public health workforce with disability and aging expertise and to collaborate with public health systems to support the health and safety of older adults and people with disabilities who are at heightened risk for severe illness from COVID-19, disproportionately experience the effects of social isolation, and need services and supports to maintain independence, particularly during emergencies and disasters. This funding is intended to help cover the costs of staff to conduct these and other crucial public health activities, and to alleviate some of the strain these networks have experienced during the pandemic. Funding can be used to cover wages and benefits, as well as the costs of associated equipment, training, and supplies for these professionals. GOEA and other state units on aging across the USA allocation totaled \$49.9 million for the project period beginning January 1, 2022 – September 30, 2024.

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Message from the Director continued...

Louisiana's allocation through the state unit on aging, GOEA, is \$2,672,733. This is 100% federal funding. State nor local match is required. The 2022 Louisiana Legislature granted GOEA spending authority effective July 1, 2022. The program will be administered through the Home and Community Based Services Unit at GOEA which is led by Shavon Humphrey, Program Manager. The de minimis percentage of 10% (allowed by ACL) remains at GOEA's office for indirect cost. These dollars were used to hire a staff person to coordinate the program which includes providing technical assistance and training to the 34 Area Agencies on Aging. This staff position expires with the grant September 2024. Ms. Taurus Ross was hired. The balance of the funding was contracted out to the 34 Area Agencies on Aging thru a formula based on the 60+ population by parish using the 2019 census estimates. Ms. Ross has hit the ground running - planning and organizing next steps. Check out the ACL website for additional information - <https://acl.gov/news-and-events/announcements/acl-begins-awarding-150m-expand-aging-and-disability-networks-public>

II. LA PEER - Louisiana Program for Empowering Every Resident

The Louisiana Ombudsman Program is also under the umbrella of the Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs. State Ombudsman Rosa Walton states "The Louisiana Program for Empowering Every Resident is a series of interactive training sessions for long-term care residents. The Program trains individuals in long-term care facilities to advocate for themselves through a six-part empowerment program and teaches them to help their fellow residents to improve day-to-day life in their home facility. The residents are trained to think in terms of advocacy and act as problem solvers through critical thinking. Louisiana is the third state in the nation to establish this "train-the-residents-to-self-advocate" program. Of course, the PEER program takes on its own style and flavor in Louisiana: LA PEER began in June



2022 as the Louisiana Program for Empowering Every Resident. Louisiana hit it on the mark: 2022 is the 20th anniversary of the advent of Pennsylvania's PEER Program. Louisiana's first LA PEER graduating class received their certificates of training on June 30, 2022, at St. Jude's Health and Wellness, New Orleans –the first facility in Louisiana to embrace LA PEER." Link to

YouTube video: <https://youtu.be/l1A6fLusNFc>. The initial focus is in the New Orleans Area but the goal is to expand throughout the state. There are 257 nursing homes in Louisiana with a census count, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation, of 22,229 residents. The ombudsman staff and volunteers currently are less than 50 for the entire state. There is a need for a self-advocacy program like LA PEER. The funding GOEA received through ARPA 2 will afford the GOEA State Ombudsman the opportunity to get a LA PEER trainer in place to train LA PEER volunteers throughout the state.

The Louisiana Executive Board on Aging

The next scheduled quarterly LEBA meeting will be held on

December 08, 2022 @ 11am

The Board members are listed below:

Johnny Berthelot

Huey Beverly

Terry Courville

Worlita Jackson

Leslie Keen—Chairwoman

Ann Keene

Gerard Landry



Willie Lewis

Donald Mallet

Heather Prejean

Charles “Buddy” Pugh

Ricco Thomas

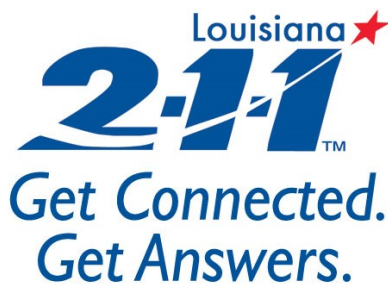
Emily Tilley

Blanche Wilks

Don't Let Your Guard Down

Louisiana is most at risk for hurricanes during the months of August, September, and October but, storms can take place any time during the Atlantic Hurricane season. We urge you to remain weather aware and be prepared. You can download the Louisiana Emergency Preparedness Guide and find other information at <https://getagameplan.org>.

If you need information on resources and assistance in your area dial 211.



In the Spotlight

Jackson Council on Aging:

Is wishing these beautiful ladies a very happy birthday!

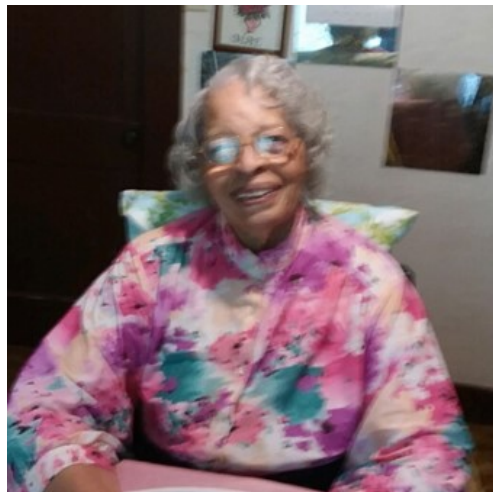
Ms. Marie Pierce turned 90
years old on July 7th



Ms. Mary Satcher turned 91
years old on July 13th



Ms. Ida Hester turned 94 years old on July 1st



Happy Birthday



St. John Council on Aging:

Upcoming activities planned for seniors include: Saints Season Kickoff, Disco Fever, and Birthday Celebration!



Seniors enjoying lunch at Golden Corral!



Wild, Wild West Celebration!

Tangipahoa Council on Aging:

Is now offering weekly group counseling sessions at all 5 of their senior centers. The counselor is also available for one-on-one sessions. The participants are listening to one another and they are forming close relationships with a deeper compassion for one another. In one center, one of the group members initiated a visitation program and when he and another couple visited one of the participants, they were able to install a window unit for her. Seniors helping other seniors, it's such a beautiful thing!

Calcasieu Council on Aging:

Participated in the Southwest Louisiana Housing Summit and Housing Resource Expo held in Lake Charles, Louisiana.



MIPPA Louisiana

Louisiana has recently received the 9th MIPPA grant since the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA) was passed in 2008. There were 3 priority components for the current grant:

Priority 1- SHIP Priority 2- AAA Priority3- ADRC

Funds have been allocated and contracts have been awarded. Responsibilities for this grant are as follows:

Priority 1: Media, Publications, Public Service Announcements, Host of Outreach and Education Events and Participation at Community Events

Priority 2: LIS/MSP Enrollment Assistance

Priority 3: Medicare Part D Counseling and Enrollment Assistance, Education on Medicare Wellness and Preventative Care, Training and Assistance with LIS/MSP Enrollment

If your agency has not participated in grant activities, your agency may still participate in the efforts to educate and assist our seniors with their Medicare benefits. For more information about MIPPA, please contact Cheri Crain at 225-342-7298.

Medicare Open Enrollment Begins: October 15-December 7



WELCOME

***Join us in welcoming our new
team members!***

Taurus Ross ~ HCBS Program Monitor

LaKisha Lewis-Harris ~ Elderly Protective Services

Shawnda Hollins-Butler ~ Elderly Protective Services

Jasmine Merrick ~ Elderly Protective Services



Please join us in congratulating Ms. Christina Delgado on her retirement! She has been an esteemed member of our team for 9 years and she will be greatly missed.

Thank you for your committed service and dedication!

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