



# Elder News

## Governor’s Office of Elderly Affairs

SPRING 2021

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### From the Director’s Chair...



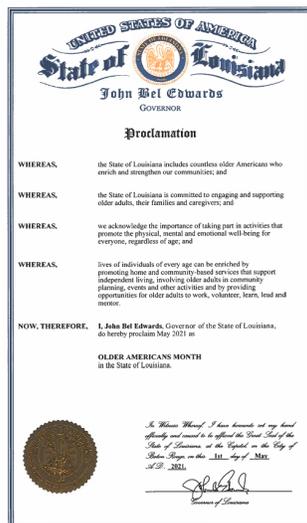
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I started this journey with GOEA May 2020 in the midst of the State of Louisiana and other states across these United States and other nations being under siege by the COVID-19 virus. It’s May 2021 and we are still mitigating the effects of COVID-19. There appears, however, to be some light at the end of the tunnel thanks to the development of several vaccines. In fact, in Louisiana if you are 16 years of age or older a vaccine is waiting for you. GOEA strongly encourages you to get vaccinated. It has been found that there are three ways to fight this virus – mask up, social distance and get VACCINATED. I want to thank the Councils on Aging, Area Agencies on Aging, and Senior Centers that worked with the local vaccine providers to host vaccination events and/or provided transportation for seniors to get vaccinated. GOEA conducted a survey that was completed by the aging network that indicated that 95% of the network is actually doing some form of outreach to get staff and seniors vaccinated – “kudos” to all of them. As we venture on this “new normal” journey, we want to get the centers and offices reopened to seniors. We also want to keep them open. That’s why it’s very important that we first get vaccinated and then strongly encourage others to get vaccinated.



# Older American's Month



In May of each year GOEA joins the rest of the nation in the observance of Older Americans Month (OAM). The theme for 2021 is "Communities of Strength." According to the Administration for Community Living (ACL) "Older adults have built resilience and strength over their lives through successes, failures, joys, and difficulties. Their stories and contributions help to support and inspire others. This Older Americans Month, we will celebrate the strength of older adults and the Aging Network, with special emphasis on the power of connection and engagement in building strong communities."

Visit <https://acl.gov/oam/2021/older-americans-month-2021> for materials, resources, and activity ideas to help you observe OAM. Don't forget to share your OAM plans and stories on social media.



COMMUNITIES OF STRENGTH: MAY 2021

# What is Emotional Abuse?

## Emotional Abuse

Infliction of anguish, pain, discomfort, through verbal or nonverbal acts.

### Examples

- Verbal assaults
- Insults – Humiliation
- Threats – Intimidation
- Isolation from family or friends
- "silent treatment"



**If you or someone you know is a victim of Elder Abuse,  
please call 1-833-577-6532.**

The Louisiana Executive Board on Aging met for the first time since March 2020 for a Special Meeting in February via teleconferencing to approve the LEBA Annual Report. This report may be found at [www.GOEA.louisiana.gov](http://www.GOEA.louisiana.gov). In March 2021, The Louisiana Executive Board on Aging met for the regular quarterly meeting. During this meeting, the Louisiana Executive Board on Aging accepted the resignation of Mr. Harold Ritchie and presented Mr. Ritchie certificates of appreciation from Governor John Bel Edwards and Ms. Shirley Merrick, Executive Director to thank Mr. Ritchie for his dedication and service as Chairman of the Louisiana Executive Board on Aging. The Louisiana Executive Board on Aging along with the Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs would like to welcome Ms. Leslie Louviere Keen to serve as the Chairman of the Louisiana Executive Board on Aging. The next scheduled quarterly meeting will be held June 8, 2021. Due to COVID, the meeting will be held via teleconference. The Board members are listed below.

**Noah Aguillard**

**Huey Beverly**

**Terry Courville**

**Grace Garon**

**Mona Cravins**

**Leslie Keen**



**Ann Keene**

**Donald Mallet**

**Ricco Thomas**

**Blanche Wilks**

**Worlita Williams**

**Bud Torres**

## Emergency Preparedness



**H**urricane Season is just around the corner. Hurricane season runs from June 1st to November 30th, however these storms can develop before or after the season. Hurricanes are a triple threat bringing high winds, soaking rain, and flying debris. Are you prepared? The time to plan is before the storm arrives! Put together an emergency preparedness kit. Make preparations for you, your family, and your pets. Stay informed. For tips on getting prepared visit: [www.getagameplan.org](http://www.getagameplan.org) or [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov).

**Ready** ✓



**Did  
You  
Know?**



### **Free Legal Help is Available to Fight for Your Rights as a Senior**

And is funded by contracts with local Area Agencies and Councils on Aging, in the parishes West of the Mississippi River, Acadiana Legal Service Corporation provides free legal aid in civil cases to persons aged 60 and over. Acadiana Legal Service Corporation has six offices located in Alexandria, Lafayette, Lake Charles, Monroe, Natchitoches, and Shreveport. Depending on the kind of problem individuals are provided with legal advice, counseling, materials, or representation. Areas of legal help include consumer and housing law; exploitation or abuse; powers of attorney, wills, and estates; Medicaid, Medicare, TANF, SNAP, Social Security, Supplemental Security Income, Veteran's, and FEMA benefits; and many more.

In 2020 Acadiana Legal Service Corporation fought for the rights of over 700 of Louisiana's senior citizens. But in many years, it does not receive enough calls to use all the funding available and reserved just for seniors. If you have a civil legal problem, visit [www.la-law.org](http://www.la-law.org), call the legal aid office nearest you or 800-256-1175 to find out more.



# In the Spotlight

**The Assumption Council on Aging :**

**Ms. Ivy Pujol turning  
100 years old on July  
11th**



The **Cameron Council on Aging** will be celebrating Older Americans Month by placing a full page ad in the local newspaper featuring those persons over the age of 90 and their photos.

**The Caldwell Council on Aging:**



**Ms. Mary Stewart  
turning 100 years old  
on May 12th**



**Ms. Daisy Gordon turning  
100 years old on August  
14th**

The **Franklin Council on Aging** celebrated Ms. Lillie Cotton's 106th birthday with a drive by parade.



The **Lafourche Council on Aging** will be celebrating Older Americans Month by hosting a drive by crawfish boil on May 14th from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. The crawfish boil will be RSVP orders only and for people 60 years of age and older. To RSVP contact your local senior center in Lafourche parish.



*Join us in welcoming our new  
team members!*

Boris Bartley

Adult Protective Services

Alicia Bourgeois

Adult Protective Services

Sharlene Davis

Adult Protective Services

Michelle Domzalaski

Adult Protective Services

Kayla Doyle

Disaster Program Manager

Tara Harris

Adult Protective Services

Sharicka McGlory

Adult Protective Services

Rondreka Pitts

Account Manager 3



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