Family members of long-term care facility residents invited to Sept. 9 conference featuring national experts and advocates on elder care

BISMARCK, N.D. – North Dakota’s Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program is inviting family members of long-term care facility residents to a one-day conference on Sept. 9, 8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. CT, to hear national experts and advocates discuss changing expectations in elder care, elder abuse risk and family councils.

The conference will be held in-person in the Pioneer Room, Judicial Wing of the Capitol in Bismarck and virtually. There is no registration fee.

Dr. Susan Wehry, chief of geriatrics at the University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine, will kick off the conference with a presentation at 8:30 a.m. CT, titled: Patienthood to Personhood.

As a geriatric psychiatrist, Wehry has devoted her career to promoting healthy, meaningful aging. Attendees will learn about how long-term care is shifting toward individualized person-directed care where quality of life concerns and individual strengths, wants, needs and goals are becoming equal in importance to quality of care concerns.

At 10:15 a.m. CT, Dr. Laura Mosquenda, director of the National Center on Elder Abuse and professor of Family Medicine and Geriatrics at the Keck School of Medicine at the University of Southern California will speak on Promoting Elder Justice: How to Investigate and Mitigate Elder Abuse.

As a clinician, researcher, educator, academic administrator and volunteer long-term care ombudsman, Mosquenda has worked to educate facility residents and their families about residents’ rights and well-being. Individuals who attend this session will learn about the signs of abuse, how to identify high-risk situations and approaches to reducing risk.

After a lunch break, the conference will resume at 1:30 p.m. CT, with a presentation on organizing family councils by Jocelyn Bogdan, J.D., senior program and policy specialist with the national advocacy organization Consumer Voice. Attendees will learn about family councils, which can provide a united voice for addressing concerns, requesting improvements, supporting new family members and residents, and supporting a facility’s efforts to enhance services.

-MORE-
Lunch is not provided. While there is no cost to attend, individuals need to register in advance by calling toll-free 855-462-5465 and selecting option 3, 711 (TTY), or by contacting the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program directly at 701-328-4617 or kbackman@nd.gov.

See conference flyer for details at www.nd.gov/dhs/services/adultsaging/ombudsman.html.

North Dakota's Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program speaks on behalf of people living in assisted living homes, basic care homes, hospital swing beds, transitional care units or nursing homes.

Residents of long-term care homes may have concerns about the quality of their care or that their rights, as a resident, are not being honored. The ombudsmen work to resolve complaints to each resident's satisfaction and offer information and resources. For more information visit www.nd.gov/dhs/services/adultsaging/ombudsman.html.

To contact the ombudsman, residents of long-term care homes and their family members can call 701-328-4617 or toll-free 855-462-5465, option 3, or 711 (TTY), email dhsagingombud@nd.gov or fax 701-328-0389.

# # #