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**Governor’s Office of Elderly Affairs (“GOEA”)**

DD Council Report

January 2025

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GOEA serves as an effective and visible advocate for the elderly population of Louisiana, ensuring seniors in need receive appropriate services from providers in the Aging Network.

GOEA is the designated State Unit on Aging and is the administrator of the federal Older Americans Act (“OAA”) program services through the network of Louisiana’s Area Agencies on Aging (“AAAs”) and Councils on Aging (“COAs”):

Home Delivered Meals	Congregate Meals
Nutrition Counseling	Nutrition Education
Assisted Transportation	Information & Assistance
Outreach	Medical Transportation
Adult Day Health Care	Group Respite
In-Home Respite	Wellness
Individual Counseling	Material Aid
Personal Care	Caregiver Public Education
Caregiver Sitter Service	Support Group
Counseling	Crime Prevention
Homemaker	Legal Assistance
Medical Alert	Medication Management
Recreation	Telephoning
Utility Assistance	Visiting

Other services provided through GOEA, or provided by partnerships, are SenioRx Prescription Assistance, National Family Caregiver Support, Louisiana Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act (“MIPPA”) Program and the Senior Employment Program.

For more information about elderly programs and services, visit:

[www.goea.louisiana.gov](http://www.goea.louisiana.gov) or contact 225-342-7100

**Programs of GOEA**

**Program Name: Long Term Care Ombudsman**

Long Term Care Ombudsman program is a federal and state funded program mandated to advocate on behalf of residents of long-term care facilities and to ensure that the rights of the residents of the long-term care facilities are being maintained. Ombudsman and Ombudsman volunteers make monthly visits to long-term care facilities across the state.

Did you know? Louisiana has 269 nursing homes and 152 assisted living facilities accommodating approximately 44,000 residents.

There are 26 staff and volunteer ombudsmen in the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program.

**For information, contact the State LTC Ombudsman, at 225-342-7100**

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Program Name:     **Elderly Protective Services (“EPS”)**

EPS is mandated by Louisiana Revised Statutes 15:1501 *et seq.* to prevent, remedy, halt, or hinder acts of abuse and neglect against an older person in the community while promoting the maximum degree of personal freedom, dignity, and self-determination for that individual. EPS has six regional offices to respond to reports of abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

The purpose of EPS is to protect adults who cannot physically or mentally protect themselves and who are harmed or threatened with harm through action or inaction by themselves or by the individuals responsible for their care or by other persons. Total number of cases received since July 1, 2024 is 2,888 cases.

The types of reports of abuse are as follows, as of the end of December:

- Caregiver Neglect           566
- Emotional Abuse           211
- Extortion                    9
- Financial Exploitation     869
- Physical Abuse             239
- Self-Neglect                915
- Sexual Abuse                11
- Other                         11

GOEA is currently in the process of adding new positions to staff. We will be adding several new supervisory positions and investigators for the Elderly Protective Services Unit.

For more information about EPS, contact 1-800-259-4990.

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Program Name:     **Ageing and Disability Resource Centers (“ADRC”)**

Each ADRC serves as a clearinghouse for an array of long-term care options, prescription assistance, and other resources available in Louisiana to elderly and disabled adults aged 21 and over. The nine ADRCs in the state are housed within either a AAA or a COA. For more information about ADRC, contact the toll-free Louisiana information, referral, and assistance line at 877-340-9100.

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**Program Name: Louisiana Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act Program (“MIPPA”)**

MIPPA is a federal grant to provide education, outreach and enrollment assistance to Medicare-eligible individuals relevant to Medicare, Medicare services, the Low Income Subsidy Program (“LIS”) and the Medicare Savings Plan (“MSP”). This project continues to offer enrollment assistance for the LIS, MSP, conduct Medicare Part D Counseling, Medicare Part D enrollment assistance, and conduct follow-ups to ensure the needs of the client beyond Medicare have been met.

For Medicare Information and Counseling, call 1-877-340-9100 toll free.

Open Enrollment starts October 15<sup>th</sup> and ends on December 7<sup>th</sup> of each year.

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**Recent News**

GOEA is hosting a Sub grantee Conference on April 1<sup>st</sup> thru the 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Baton Rouge.

GOEA continues to work on developing changes in our Policies & Procedures to comply with the new provisions of the older Americans Act to be compliant by October 2025.

Our next Louisiana Executive Board on Aging quarterly meeting will be held on February 19, 2025.

GOEA continues to work with the Emergency Management for Disabled and Aged Coalition (“EMDAC”), Feeding Task Force and other Response/Recovery Support Function groups. These activities are structured to plan and implement activities prior to an emergency, during the emergency, and post emergency for expedient recovery for the constituents and the state.