



STATE OF WISCONSIN
BOARD ON AGING AND LONG TERM CARE

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Eva Arnold
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Barbara Thoni

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Heather A. Bruemmer

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

DATE: 29 July 2011

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A Celebration of Thirty Years of Advocacy

Governor Walker proclaims Board on Aging and Long Term Care Recognition Week

Governor Scott Walker has officially proclaimed the week of 1 August through 7 Aug, 2011 as
Board on Aging and Long Term Care Recognition Week.

The agency is being recognized on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of its formation as an independent state agency.

The Board was established and enabled by an act of the Legislature which was signed into law by Governor Lee Sherman Dreyfus 6 Aug 1981. This law created the Board on Aging and Long Term Care to house the Wisconsin part of the Long Term Care Ombudsman Program which had recently been created by the United States Congress.

The Wisconsin Board on Aging and Long Term Care is independent from other state agencies and is given policy direction by a Board of Directors, appointed by the Governor and composed of a diverse and exceptionally well-qualified group of seven private citizens. The Board members are active participants in establishing the mission, goals, vision and plans of the agency. The agency is currently lead by Board Chairman Dr. Dale Taylor and Executive Director Heather Bruemmer.

The mission and values of the Board on Aging and Long Term Care direct the agency's programs to serve the citizens of this state. As a committed and tireless advocacy organization, the Board has, for thirty years, worked within state government to serve the wider goal of a more compassionate society. We, the staff of the Board on Aging and Long Term Care, take this mandate very seriously and we try, each day, to meet this goal. The leadership of the agency is regularly engaged in direct and systemic advocacy in the Legislature and with other state agencies whose actions affect the lives of Wisconsin's elderly and disabled. The Board also interacts with local agencies and governments and with the US Congress.

The staff of the Long Term Care Ombudsman Program have consistently proven to be conscientious and committed advocates for the rights and interests of the elderly and disabled citizens of Wisconsin living in long term care facilities, participating in the Community Options Program and Family Care. Ombudsmen respond to concerns and complaints raised by consumers of long term care and their families and friends, negotiating, mediating, and facilitating ways to try to resolve these issues without having to refer them to state regulators. Ombudsmen also provide needed education and training services directly to care providers. The Board on Aging and Long Term Care has made special efforts to advocate on behalf of individuals with Alzheimer's and other dementias, and their families.

The Board on Aging and Long Term Care Volunteer Ombudsman Program was formed in 1995 as a means to involve citizen volunteers in the advocacy of the Board. Volunteers act as adjuncts to the professional Ombudsmen. Over the years, the Volunteer Ombudsman Program has grown to about 130 volunteers serving in 30 of the state's counties.

The Medigap Helpline of the Board on Aging and Long Term Care has been widely recognized for the effective assistance it gives to persons who are seeking to navigate the complex systems of Medicare and Medicaid. Medigap counselors field calls every day from consumers who have questions or problems relating to Medicare, Medicare supplemental insurance, or the interaction between these programs and other forms of insurance. The counselors' reputation is such that the federal counselors at Medicare.gov will often refer callers to our 800 number.

After thirty years, the Board on Aging and Long Term Care has become a bulwark of advocacy for some of Wisconsin's most vulnerable citizens. We are proud to serve this state and we expect to continue to deliver our very best efforts in pursuit of the well-being and security of our constituents.

Thank you to Governor Walker for this recognition and to your predecessors through the years for their support. Thank you, as well, to our colleagues in the other agencies of state government and to our friends in the non-governmental advocacy and provider communities for your assistance and dedication to the singular goal of providing the best possible quality of care and quality of life to the elderly and disabled people that we work for.

We ask all to help us celebrate the Board on Aging and Long Term Care's thirtieth birthday. If in no other way than taking a moment to reflect on how far Wisconsin has come in providing competent and compassionate quality care to our elderly and disabled citizens, we can all take pride in the way that we look out for each other.

STATE of WISCONSIN



OFFICE of the GOVERNOR

Proclamation

WHEREAS; the Board on Aging and Long Term Care was established and enabled by sections 30h, 30i and 57m of Chapter 20 of the Laws of 1981 which was signed by then Governor Lee Sherman Dreyfus; and

WHEREAS; the Board on Aging and Long Term Care is given policy direction by the Board of Directors which is composed of a diverse group of seven citizens who are active participants in establishing the focus, goals and plans for the agency; and

WHEREAS; the staff of the Long Term Care Ombudsman and Volunteer Ombudsman Programs of the Board of Aging and Long Term Care have proven to be conscientious and committed advocates for the rights and interests of the elderly and disabled citizens of Wisconsin living in long term care facilities; and

WHEREAS; the staff of the Medigap Helpline of the Board on Aging and Long Term Care is widely recognized as being extraordinarily competent at providing assistance to persons who are seeking to navigate the complex systems of Medicare and Medicaid; and

WHEREAS; the Board on Aging and Long Term Care has been recognized by citizens as a committed organization working within state government to serve the wider goal of a more compassionate society; and

WHEREAS; the Board on Aging and Long Term Care has engaged in direct advocacy on behalf of individuals with Alzheimer's and other dementia, and programs within the board continue to conduct effective public outreach to educate and empower individuals and their families;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Scott Walker, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby designate the week of August 1 – August 7, 2011, as

BOARD ON AGING AND LONG TERM CARE WEEK

throughout the State of Wisconsin, and I commend this observance to all of our citizens.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this 27th day of June 2011.


SCOTT WALKER
GOVERNOR

By the Governor:


DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE
Secretary of State

