

Sample Ombudsman Newsletter Article

Long-Term Care Residents Honored During Residents' Rights Month, October 2014

Better Staffing: The Key to Better Care

Across the country, residents of nursing homes and other long-term care facilities along with family members, ombudsmen, citizen advocates, facility staff and others will honor the individual rights of long-term care residents by celebrating Residents' Rights Month in October. Designated by the National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care, this month highlights the importance of promoting the rights of and quality of care and services received by residents who live in our country's nursing homes, assisted living and board and care facilities.

As an ombudsman, you are encouraged to promote Residents' Rights Month celebrations and events in your facilities. Every year, the Consumer Voice develops a packet relating to the theme for the year. This packet is intended for long-term care facilities, ombudsmen, citizen advocacy groups, family councils and others interested. Previous years' packets are also available from the Consumer Voice website (www.theconsumervoice.org). The packets' promotional materials and event ideas; stories of resident empowerment from across the country; materials for ombudsmen, social workers and others involved in the care at nursing homes, assisted living, and board and care facilities; activity ideas for residents to take part in Residents' Rights Month; training programs/ideas for facility staff, fact sheets for residents and families and more.

<INSERT DETAILS ABOUT STATE OR LOCAL OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM HERE.>

"Residents' Rights Month is an excellent opportunity to re-affirm our collective commitment to residents' rights and to honor long-term care residents," said Richard Gelula, Consumer Voice Executive Director. "We want to encourage residents and others to become informed about staffing and long-term care. There is an inextricable link between appropriate staffing standards and quality of care for the resident, and we hope to utilize Residents' Rights Month to shine a light on this important issue."

Thank you for working to make Residents' Rights Month meaningful for all involved. Please remember to share information about your successes so that we can include them in weekly blast e-mails to our membership, on our website and in next year's packet. If you have questions, email info@theconsumervoice.org.