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Dan Goodman, Executive Director



# Kansas Advocate News

## KABC Publications

Did you know that KABC has produced a number of really good print resources? The main focus is on getting the best care possible, whether it's in a facility or in your own home.

- ◇ **"Is This the Nursing Home to Choose?"** provides a checklist of things to consider when comparing facilities.
- ◇ **"Planning for Better Care"** is a guide for residents and family member about the Care Plan and how it relates to your care.
- ◇ **"Assisted Adult Care Facilities"** explains the different types of long-term care that are not nursing facilities: Defines each license category; Who can live there; What to expect; A list of questions to ask.
- ◇ **"Legal Rights of Nursing Home Residents"** talks about your rights when you move into a nursing facility, and how to address any problems or grievances.
- ◇ **"Positive Approaches for Loved-Ones with Dementia"** is a practical guide for best practices for helping someone with Alzheimer's or dementia - without the use of anti-psychotic drugs.
- ◇ **"The Care You Want"** discusses the difference between in-home care, and in-home healthcare as well as the best course to take to obtain the care you need and stay in your own home.

These are just a few that are available and many of them are in hard copy. All are on our website: [www.kabc.org/](http://www.kabc.org/) under the "Training and Resources" tab.

There is never a charge for any of our materials. If you would like to order copies, please contact our office.

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### About KABC

**Kansas Advocates for Better Care was founded in 1975 by citizens who were concerned about the poor care and undignified living situations in nursing homes. KABC incorporated as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. We do not receive funding from any state or federal agency, and depend entirely on membership dues, contributions and grants for special purposes to keep our doors open so we can help Kansans in their search for quality long-term care choices for loved ones.**

# PACE Program in Kansas

The Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) program promotes quality, comprehensive health services for older adults. The primary care physicians and interdisciplinary team of professionals provide and coordinate all services for the individual, offering a “one-stop shop” for their needs. Most services are provided at home and at the PACE Center.

To be eligible for PACE, an individual must meet the following criteria:

1. Age 55 years or older
2. Meet nursing home level of care
3. Able to live safely in the community with PACE support at time of enrollment

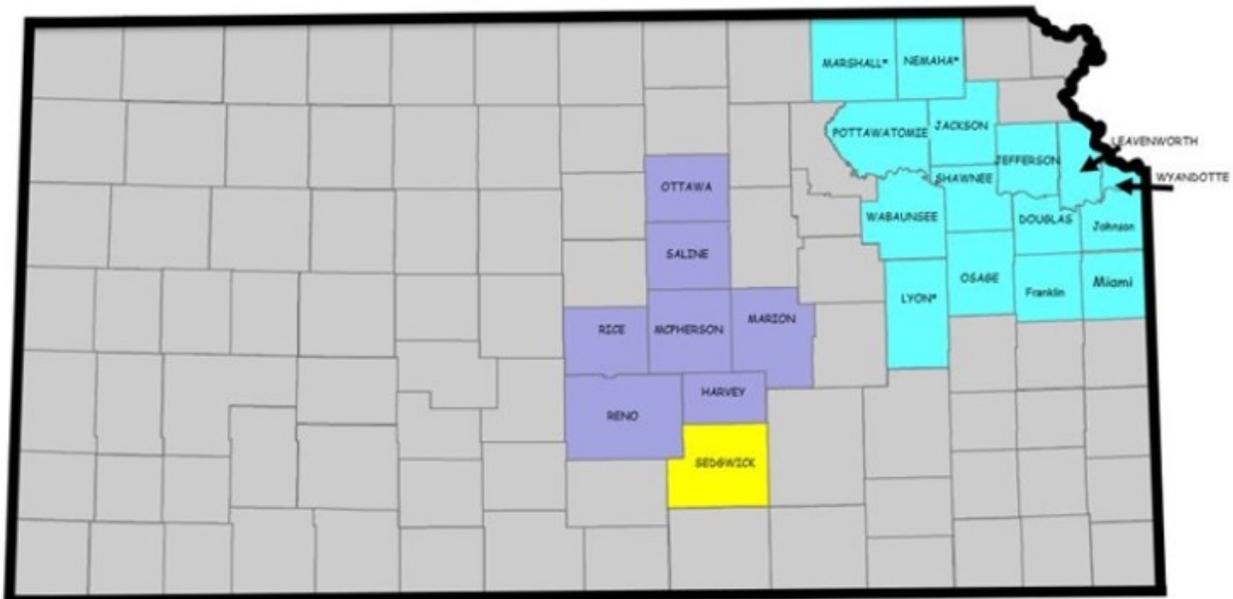
PACE services are provided in the following counties: Douglas, Franklin, Harvey, Jackson, Jefferson, Johnson, Leavenworth, Lyon, Marion, Marshall, McPherson, Miami, Nemaha, Osage, Ottawa, Reno, Rice, Saline, Sedgwick, Shawnee, Pottawatomie, Wabaunsee and Wyandotte.

To apply, contact your local PACE office:

- Ascension HOPE** 316-858-1111
- BlueStem Communities** 844-588-7223
- Midland Care** 800-726-7450

For more information, visit the KDADS website: <https://www.kdads.ks.gov/services-programs/aging/program-of-all-inclusive-care-for-the-elderly-pace>

## Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) Service Map



 Bluestem Communities

 Ascension Living Hope

 Midland Care

 No PACE Services

\* Lyon- 66801, 66830, 66833, 66835, 66854, 66864, 66865, 66868  
 \* Marshall- 66403, 66406, 66411, 66412, 66427, 66438, 66508, 66518, 66541, 66544, 66548  
 \* Nemaha- 66404, 66408, 66415, 66417, 66426, 66522, 66534, 66538, 66550

\* Indicates partial county

## Advocacy in Action

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Kansas Advocates for Better Care has been actively engaged in the Kansas legislative session, providing testimony and monitoring policies that affect older adults, caregivers, and long-term care services across the state.

### **Opposing a Frail Elderly Waiver Wait List:**

KABC provided oral testimony to both the House Social Services Budget Committee and the Senate Ways and Means Subcommittee opposing a proposed waitlist for the Frail Elderly (FE) waiver. We requested **\$31 million in additional funding** to fully fund the waiver. While significant, this request remains modest compared to the roughly \$200 million increase to the nursing facility base approved last session. We will continue tracking budget developments, including additional funding proposals affecting the nursing facility industry.

### **Supported Decision Making (HB 2609)**

KABC submitted written-only testimony supporting HB 2609, which would legally recognize Supported Decision Making (SDM) as an alternative to guardianship.

Unlike guardianship, SDM allows adults with disabilities to make their own decisions with help from trusted supporters, preserving independence and dignity. The bill would:

- Define roles and establish formal agreements
- Provide legal protections for supporters
- Create safeguards against abuse
- Potentially reduce court involvement and costs

This approach could help courts focus on cases where guardianship is truly necessary while offering Kansans a less restrictive option.

### **Memory Care Standards (HB 2370)**

KABC also provided oral testimony supporting HB 2370, which seeks to establish standards for assisted living communities marketing “Memory Care” or “Dementia Care.”

The bill aims to improve resident safety, strengthen care quality, and ensure transparency for families seeking dementia services while preventing misleading marketing.

The hearing included supportive testimony from the Alzheimer’s Association and the Kansas Long-Term Care Ombudsman, while industry representatives expressed opposition. The Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services testified as neutral and requested seven full-time staff positions to help implement and oversee the proposal.

### **Dementia Training for Guardians (HB 2536)**

KABC submitted written testimony supporting HB 2536, which would strengthen dementia-specific training requirements for guardians. Currently, such training is not required through the Kansas Guardianship Program, despite the complex needs of individuals living with Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias.

Under this bill, the Alzheimer’s Association would provide high-quality dementia training at no cost, removing financial barriers while equipping guardians with essential skills, including:

- Understanding dementia-related behaviors
- Communicating compassionately with individuals experiencing cognitive impairment
- Recognizing signs of abuse, neglect, or exploitation

We will continue to keep you updated as the legislative session continues. Thank you for your continued support as we advocate for older Kansans!

For more information about all of our legislative activities to date, visit our website:

<https://www.kabc.org/legislative-advocacy>

# Dementia Care & Support in Kansas

While services exist for older adults with dementia or cognitive impairments and their caregivers, access is fractured, spread across agencies, and contracted to various partners. Funding streams and eligibility rules are not aligned. Families are forced to self-navigate a complex system without a single professional looking out for the older person's best interest, especially at a time when they are least able to do so. This is particularly true in rural and frontier counties where provider choice is limited, and family caregivers carry most of the burden.

There are existing policies and structural issues that unintentionally limit access to timely, effective, and person-centered support for individuals with dementia or cognitive impairment. Several structural issues limit access:

**a)** State funding and investment prioritize institutional care over community-based services.

**b)** Kansas's Medicaid eligibility and service authorization processes are fragmented, slow, and rigid, which makes our system difficult to navigate.

**c)** Workforce policies fail to address shortages, particularly in rural and frontier areas, resulting in approved services that, at times, cannot be delivered. These policies were never designed to restrict access, but the cumulative effect does exactly that.

Effective models for supporting individuals with dementia and their caregivers share some common traits:

**a)** Strong community partnerships between Area Agencies on Aging, local providers, and advocacy organizations.

**b)** Care coordination/case management service models that offer a single, trusted professional or

point of contact.

**c)** Flexible use of funds to care coordination, that support respite, and resource education. Programs succeed better when they reduce complexity.

The most urgent gaps in services and support are:

- Timely access to services before a hospital stay & discharge.
- Reliable caregiver support, including respite, education, and training.
- Capable direct care workers, particularly in rural communities. Too often, assistance arrives only after families are overwhelmed or burnt out.

Two steps would make an immediate difference in strengthening dementia-capable systems:

Implement or re-invest in community care coordination to perhaps span across agencies and various funding sources and strengthen the community-based direct care workforce through targeted reimbursement increases tied to community-based and/or dementia-specific training. Both are achievable within existing structures.

Three state-level priorities or investments that would most improve outcomes for older adults living with dementia or other cognitive impairments in Kansas include: rebalancing long-term care funding or investment to better support community-based services, holding systems accountable for outcomes, especially where public dollars are invested and aligning policy, funding, and accountability around what families actually need to succeed at home along with their older family member.

*KABC continues to provide testimony on key issues surrounding this topic. Watch for updates.*

## KABC's 2025 Impact Report Now Available!

In 2025, KABC marked a major milestone: 50 years of advocating for the safety, dignity, and rights of older Kansans. Our newly released 2025 Impact Report reflects a year of meaningful progress, powerful advocacy, and deep community connection.

The report is available on our website: <https://www.kabc.org/impact-report-2025>

If you would like a hard copy mailed to you, please let us know!



## A Word about Guardianship

Guardianship is the appointment by a court of an individual or entity to make personal, healthcare and/or financial decisions for an adult whom the court finds unable to make such decisions for themselves. Guardianship laws, terms, practices and procedures vary by state.

Oftentimes, guardians are family members. Others may be willing friends, trained volunteers, or professionals such as lawyers or professional guardians. Guardians may also be corporate or governmental agencies such as banks, financial institutions, non-profit or for-profit private agencies, or state or local guardianship programs.

The National Center on Elder Abuse recently created several publications to help you make an informed choice about decision-making options. Visit [www.ncea.usc.edu/publications/](http://www.ncea.usc.edu/publications/) to read or download.

In our state, The Kansas Guardianship program is a volunteer-based model that provides

guardianship or conservatorship services for vulnerable adults.

The responsibilities of a Guardian or conservator may include:

- Advocate for a higher quality of life for another, while monitoring and protecting individual rights.
- Advocate for and exercise authority as necessitated by the person's limitations.
- Access services and supports including physical, psychological, and emotional care and treatment.
- Monitor quality of supports and services.
- Provide necessary paperwork such as court reports and accountings, applications for supports, services and benefits, etc.
- Provide necessary consents.
- Visit the person regularly.
- Manage the finances and estate on behalf of person (if conservator).

Visit [www.ksgprog.org](http://www.ksgprog.org) for more information.

## Did You Know?

Home Plus (HP) facilities are the fastest growing type of long-term care in Kansas. Currently there are 241 licensed Home Plus, and that number is growing every month.

Home Plus residences are licensed to care for 12 or fewer people. (*NOTE: there is a bill being considered to increase the number of residents to 16.*) These homes are usually private residences and typically provide:

- A private or shared room
- Daily meal service
- 24-hour supervision by staff (can be Certified Nurse Aide/ CNA or other care provider)
- Personal Care (help with the activities of daily living – bathing, eating, dressing, etc.)

The level of care that can be provided at a Home Plus facility is dependent on the type of professional training of the staff, as approved by the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services and in accord with regulations. If the operator is a registered nurse, the care which can be provided in the home plus may be more complicated than if the operator has no nursing training. Personnel of any home plus who provide services for residents with dementia are required to take annual dementia care training.

If you are considering a Home Plus facility, it may be helpful to contact the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services to know exactly what type of care is authorized at the Home Plus.

As always, KABC offers detailed Consumer Information Reports about any licensed adult care home at no cost. Call or email our office to request. 800-525-1782 [info@kabc.org](mailto:info@kabc.org)

*“Real change, enduring change, happens one step at a time.”*

**Ruth Bader Ginsberg**

## Memorials/Honors

**We are grateful for these gifts**

**In Memory of:**

**Lee Ketzel**

*from*

*Audrey Kamb Studdard  
Marc, Eric & Chris Ketzel & Family*

**William Dann**

*from*

*Peter Whitenight*

**Dana & Elaine Wray**

*Fowler Jones*

*Kathleen Kelly*

*Lloyd Kirk*

*Sharron Santi*

*Jane Van Tassel*

*Stephanie Williams*

*The Monticello Community Historical  
Society*

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**In Honor of Barbara Braa**

*from*

*Laurie Ward*

### **KABC Privacy Policy**

Kansas Advocates for Better Care (KABC) protects your privacy. KABC maintains password-protected computerized data files regarding financial support. We do not sell or share our membership list or member financial information with any other agency, and will not divulge any personal information about any members, contributors or contacts without express written permission.

## KABC Office Staff Update

In July of 1998, I was considering changing jobs. For decades, I worked with for-profit businesses doing a variety of things, but primarily bookkeeping and other office related tasks. I happened to see a newspaper ad from KABC, looking for someone familiar with the QuickBooks accounting program. I was. I applied and was hired.

Over the last 27+ years, my involvement became multi-faceted, learning to create newsletters, manage two different databases, helping with fundraising, as well as becoming familiar about long-term care facility regulations and other issues that affect aging and disabled Kansans. I have spoken with thousands of people over the years, and hope that I was able to provide a listening ear, kindness, and guidance when they needed help.

During this time, I lost my Mom. Got divorced. Gained two daughters-in-law and celebrated the birth of four grands, one of whom will be married later this year. In July 2022, I lost my younger sister to ALS, and my partner in September 2022, due to complications after a serious auto accident. It's certainly been a ride, and not always pleasant.

After 27+ years, I've decided it's time to step away. My last day at KABC will be March 31.

It's been a pleasure getting to know so many good people - staff, board members, volunteers, constituents. You've mentored and inspired me. I've made some good friends along the way. I hope I've been a friend to all of you, too.

*Lenette Hamm*

## Consumer Assistance

To report abuse, neglect and exploitation occurring in adult care homes, contact the KDADS hotline: **800-842-0078**

Adult Abuse in the community  
APS hotline: **800-922-5330** (24/7)  
(Also for reporting care home abuse/neglect after hours)

KanCare Ombudsman **855-643-8180**  
[KanCare.Ombudsman@ks.gov](mailto:KanCare.Ombudsman@ks.gov)

Aging & Disability Resource Centers  
**855-200-2372**

Kansas Attorney General  
Consumer Protection Division  
**800-432-2310**

Medicaid Fraud **866-551-6328**

For assistance with concerns/problems with adult care homes, call the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman **877-662-8362**  
<https://ombudsman.ks.gov>

Elder Law Hotline **888-353-5337**

Report suspected Medicare fraud:  
**800-447-8477**

For no-cost mediation regarding problems with Medicare Providers, contact Commence Health **888-755-5580**  
<https://www.commencehealthqio.cms.gov/en/States/Kansas>

Centers for Medicare/Medicaid Services  
Care Compare (CMS)  
<https://www.medicare.gov/care-compare/?providerType=NursingHome>

For **one-stop** long-term care information:  
**Kansas Advocates for Better Care**  
Toll-free: **800-525-1782** Email:  
info@kabc.org Website: [www.kabc.org](http://www.kabc.org)



536 Fireside Ct. Suite B  
Lawrence, KS 66049

Newsletter Produced by KABC Staff Members

**Join other KABC friends who believe older adults deserve safe and compassionate care.  
Protect those you love now and ensure a better future for all of us.**

You've read about the urgent issues facing older Kansans in this newsletter and you can make a difference today. Please complete the form below and return by mail or make your gift online by clicking the [DONATE](http://www.kabc.org) button on the top of the screen at [www.kabc.org](http://www.kabc.org)

**Note:** A gift of \$100 will deliver immediate guidance and support to five families in search of quality care.

**I want to make a difference with my gift today:**

\_\_\_ \$50    \_\_\_ \$100    \_\_\_ \$250    \_\_\_ \$500    Other amount \$ \_\_\_

- \*\* My Gift is in Honor or Memory** of a loved-one (see below)
- Please use my gift where needed most
- Harriet Nehring Education Fund (*provides training & resources for caregivers across Kansas*)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State & Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\* In Honor/Memory of:** \_\_\_\_\_

*All gifts make a difference ~ Thank You!*

**Make checks payable to KABC & Mail to:  
536 Fireside Ct., Ste. B, Lawrence, KS 66049**