

Winter, 2025 Volume 41, Issue 4 Dan Goodman, Executive Director

Kansas Advocate News

National Consumer Voice Conference



KS Ombuds Haely Ordoyne with Libby Hastings

In the first week of November, Libby Hastings, KABC's Communication and Public Relations Coordinator, traveled to Washington, D.C. for <u>The National Consumer Voice Conference</u>, an inspiring gathering of advocates, residents, families, and national leaders committed to improving long-term care.

One of the most meaningful parts of the trip was meeting and talking with nursing home residents from the New England and D.C. area. Hearing their experiences reaffirmed how

universal the challenges are and how urgently change is needed. "Listening to residents from across the country reminded me that the issues we see in Kansas are not isolated," said Hastings. "Their stories strengthen my commitment to pushing for accountability and dignity for every older adult."

Workshops and policy sessions highlighted the need for stronger oversight, better staffing, and protections that center on residents' safety and well-being. Libby shared, "I left feeling more energized than ever. The challenges in long-term care are big, but so is the community working to fix them. It felt like such an honor for the conference to be held in Washington, D.C., a place founded on principles of freedom, representation, and advocacy. Being there reminded me that using our voices to protect older adults is not just important work, it's foundational to who we are as a country."

We look forward to bringing what Libby learned back to Kansas as we continue advocating for quality, safety, and accountability in every care setting.



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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 longterm care choices for loved

Celebrating 50 Years of Advocacy

On October 28th, KABC hosted a free showing of the documentary, "No Country for Old People" at Liberty Hall in Lawrence, Kansas. Approximately 40 dedicated advocates were in attendance.

Directed by Susie Singer Carter, the film chronicled the last six months of her mother who was living in a "5-Star" nursing home while battling Alzheimer's disease. The film was an emotional journey for some, informative and helpful to others as they learned not only about care settings, but how the money flows in facilities.

KABC is grateful to The Douglas County Community Foundation for providing financial support for this event as well as our amazing and generous sponsors:

AgeWise Advocacy & Consulting
Bet Bowen
Barbara & Mick Braa
Janet Buttery & Alan Williger
Laurie Comstock &
Greg Ludvigson
Davenport Winery
Webster & Joan Golden
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Cathy Reinhardt
Barbara & Dick Schowen
Stevens & Brand, LLP
Shepherd Elder Law Group, LLC
The Trust Company





"Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success."

Henry Ford

Advocacy in Action



Dan Goodman

Nursing Home Oversight in Kansas

On October 1st and 2nd, the 2025 Special Committee on Health and Social Services met, with the first day devoted to nursing

home surveying and credentialing. The joint committee of both House and Senate members heard from the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS), the Long-Term Care Ombudsman, industry representatives from Kansas and out of state, administrators, and contractors. Notably absent were the voices of consumers, their family members, and facility staff, the people most affected by long-term care policy.

The committee heard about:

- Survey Backlogs and Staffing Challenges
- Resident Rights at Risk
- Involuntary Discharges and the Ombudsman's Recommendation
- Raising the Personal Needs Allowance

On Monday, October 13th, Dan Goodman, Executive Director of Kansas Advocates for Better Care (KABC), delivered testimony before the Robert G. Bethell Joint Committee on Home & Community Based Services & KanCare Oversight. His remarks focused on the urgent need to strengthen Kansas' long-term care system through sustainable funding and workforce investments.

Goodman urged legislators to provide additional funding for the Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Frail Elderly waiver, noting projected shortfalls of \$27 million in FY26 and \$70 million in FY27. Without intervention, hundreds of older Kansans could face placement on a waitlist as early as this fall—delaying access to critical inhome services and increasing the risk of premature institutionalization.

KABC will continue to advocate for

- Strong oversight of nursing homes
- Resident rights protections, including freedom of choice in providers
- Central inclusion of residents and staff voices in all policy discussion

Read more: <u>www.kabc.org</u> at the Legislative Advocacy tab.

PEAK Program in Kansas

The PEAK (Promoting Excellent Alternatives in Kansas) program, a pay-for-performance initiative from Kansas State University and KDADS, is reshaping what life in a nursing home can look like. By emphasizing person-directed care, PEAK encourages facilities to give residents more control over their daily lives—when to wake up, what to eat, and how to shape their living spaces. In 2002 it started as a recognition program, and in 2011 it became a pay-for-performance program. The amount of reimbursement is tied to the level of participation by facilities.

Important Note: KABC supports initiatives that promote person-centered care but reminds families that participation in PEAK does not automatically reflect a facility's quality of care. Financial incentives or program involvement alone don't guarantee that residents are receiving consistent or personalized quality care. KABC provides Consumer Information Reports at no cost about all licensed adult care facilities in Kansas to help you make an informed decision. Call or email our office.

Nursing Facility Performance Updates

KABC has compiled a list of nursing facilities and long-term care units that were cited for at least one Actual Harm (AH), Immediate Jeopardy (IJ) or Abuse/Neglect/Exploitation (ANE) deficiency (DEF) during their most recent inspection and any recent complaint investigations. The list is long - 133 facilities. There are 46 facilities that didn't make this list that had more than 10 overall deficiencies, but none of the more serious citations. The number of overall deficiencies in Kansas range from 0 to 35. The average is 10.5 deficiencies. This information is current as of December 5, 2025 and was taken from the Kansas Department for Aging & Disability Services (KDADS) website. If you would like more information about any licensed long-term care facility in Kansas, please contact KABC. 785-842-3088 or info@kabc.org

Facility Name	Last Survey	DEF	AH	IJ	ANE
Medicalodges Fort Scott	4/3/2024	35	0	0	3
Kearny Co. Hospital LTCU, Lakin	10/24/2024	33	1	0	0
Advena Living of Clearwater	6/3/2024	31	1	5	6
The Gardens at Aldersgate, Topeka	2/22/2024	29	3	1	1
Shawnee Gardens Healthcare & Rehab	9/18/2024	27	3	0	3
Tanglewood Nursing & Rehab, Topeka	10/17/2024	27	1	2	0
Great Plains Post Acute, Wichita	2/11/2025	24	4	2	3
Shawnee Post Acute & Rehab	3/27/2024	24	1	0	0
Wheatridge Park Care Center, Liberal	9/16/2024	24	2	0	0
Hilltop Lodge Health & Rehab, Beloit	2/29/2024	23	0	2	2
Medicalodges Eudora	8/14/2024	23	0	2	1
Overland Park Post Acute	9/11/2024	23	1	0	0
Life Care Center of Andover	3/27/2025	22	1	3	3
Plaza West Healthcare & Rehab, Topeka	3/19/2025	22	0	0	1
Wichita Care & Rehab	5/15/2025	22	0	1	0
Anew Healthcare, Nortonville	4/16/2025	21	1	0	0
Aspen Health & Wellness, Overland Park	6/25/2025	21	1	0	0
Avita Health & Rehab at Reeds Cove, Wichita	8/19/2024	21	1	1	0
Diversicare of Haysville	3/13/2025	21	0	0	2
Garden Terrace at Overland Park	5/15/2025	21	0	1	1
Rossville Healthcare Rehab	4/23/2025	21	0	1	0
Meridian Nursing & Rehab, Wichita	8/5/2024	20	0	3	1
Spring Hill Care & Rehab	6/11/2025	20	0	1	2
Via Christi Village, Hays	7/23/2025	20	1	0	0
Westview of Derby Rehab & Health Care	3/5/2025	20	1	0	0
Catholic Care Center, BelAire	12/4/2024	19	0	1	0

Facility Name	Last Survey	DEF	АН	IJ	ANE
The Healthcare Resort of Kansas City	7/10/2024	19	2	0	2
Tonganoxie Terrace	3/20/2024	19	0	0	2
Anew Healthcare Easton	2/28/2024	18	1	1	1
Azria Health Olathe	9/10/2025	18	0	1	1
Parkside Homes, Hillsboro	10/9/2024	18	1	0	0
Pioneer Ridge Retirement, Lawrence	10/17/2024	18	0	1	1
Stevens County Hospital LTCU, Hugoton	12/12/2024	18	3	0	0
Good Samaritan, Liberal	7/24/2024	17	0	5	3
Ignite Medical Resort Rainbow Blvd., KC	8/22/2024	17	1	0	0
Smoky Hill Rehab Center, Salina	4/23/2025	17	2	0	0
Atchison Senior Village Rehab & Nursing	4/17/2024	16	0	1	0
Diversicare of Council Grove	8/28/2024	16	1	0	0
Ignite Medical Resort, Overland Park	7/17/2024	16	1	0	0
Medicalodges Arkansas City	6/26/2025	16	1	3	4
Medicalodges Coffeyville on Midland	5/13/2024	16	1	4	4
Swan Health at Overland Park	5/6/2025	16	1	1	3
Advena on Woodlawn, Wichita	4/1/2025	15	0	0	1
Azria Health Wichita	4/11/2024	15	0	0	1
Parkview Health & Rehab, Osborne	8/20/2025	15	0	0	1
The Center at Waterfront, Wichita	3/18/2024	15	0	1	0
Sunset Home, Concordia	3/26/2025	15	1	0	3
Frankfort Community Care Home	11/17/2025	14	0	1	0

Nursing Facility Performance Updates, continued

Facility Name	Last Survey	DEF	AH	IJ	ANE
Good Samaritan Society Olathe	7/23/2025	14	0	0	1
Halstead Health & Rehab	5/20/2024	14	2	0	0
Kaw River Care & Rehab, Edwardsville	5/7/2025	14	2	0	2
Meadowbrook Rehab Hosp., Gardner	9/16/2025	14	0	1	0
Medicalodges Frontenac	11/18/2024	14	0	1	0
Medicalodges Leavenworth	9/25/2024	14	0	1	1
The Cedars, McPherson	3/11/2024	14	0	0	2
The Healthcare Resort of Olathe	4/16/2025	14	0	1	1
The Plaza Health Svcs at Santa Marta, Olathe	7/31/2024	14	1	0	0
The Shepherd's Center, Cimarron	11/17/2025	14	0	3	3
Azria Health Woodhaven, Great Bend	7/29/2025	13	0	1	1
Eureka Nursing Center Rehab & Skilled Nursing	7/11/2024	13	1	2	2
Legacy at Salina	9/10/2025	13	2	0	2
Logan County Senior Living, Oakley	4/4/2024	13	1	0	1
Advena Living of Bonner Springs	4/16/2025	12	1	0	0
Lakeview Village, Inc., Lenexa	6/5/2024	12	0	1	0
Minneola District Hospital	3/4/2025	12	1	1	0
Phillips County Retirement	5/16/2024	12	0	1	3
Riverview Estates, Marquette	3/20/2025	12	1	1	3
Rolling Hills Health Ctr, Topeka	7/29/2025	12	1	0	0
Russell Regional Hospital	9/16/2025	12	0	0	1
Belleville Health Care & Rehab	9/16/2025	11	1	0	0
Family Health & Rehab, Wichita	4/24/2024	11	0	0	2
Kansas Soldiers Home, Ft. Dodge	8/7/2025	11	1	0	0
Linn Community Nursing Home	6/5/2024	11	0	1	2
Sabetha Manor	3/20/2024	11	0	0	2
Aberdeen Village, Olathe	5/15/2024	10	0	1	0
Colonial Village, Overland Park	10/31/2024	10	1	0	0
Edwardsville Care & Rehab	8/21/2024	10	0	1	0
Flint Hills Care & Rehab, Emporia	7/1/2025	10	1	0	1
Hutchinson Health & Rehab	4/15/2024	10	1	1	0
Lansing Care & Rehab	11/17/2025	10	0	0	1
Medicalodges Atchison	6/27/2024	10	0	0	1
Memorial Hospital LTCU, Abilene	9/11/2024	10	0	0	1
Pratt Health & Rehab	4/17/2024	10	0	1	0
Rolling Hills Health & Rehab, Wichita	11/20/2024	10	1	0	0

Facility Name	Last Survey	DEF	АН	IJ	ANE
Tallgrass Healthcare Campus, Junction City	8/6/2025	10	0	1	1
Americare at Grand Plains Skilled Nursing & Rehab, Pratt	3/13/2025	9	1	0	3
Andbe Home, Norton	6/13/2024	9	0	1	0
Attica Long Term Care Facility	6/11/2025	9	1	1	1
Manor of the Plains, Dodge City	9/11/2025	9	0	0	1
Medicalodges Great Bend	7/24/2024	9	0	3	0
Medicalodges Kinsley	11/20/2024	9	0	1	2
Moran Manor	6/4/2025	9	0	1	0
Cedar Village, Ness City	3/5/2025	9	1	0	0
Park Lane Nursing Home, Scott City	3/5/2025	9	0	1	0
Parkway Care & Rehab, Edwardsville	8/7/2024	9	1	0	0
Pleasant View Home, Inman	10/9/2024	9	1	0	3
Providence Living Center, Topeka	2/13/2024	9	1	0	0
Salina Presbyterian Manor	6/26/2025	9	0	1	1
Solomon Valley Manor, Stockton	10/24/2024	9	2	0	0
Stratford Commons Rehab & Health Care, Overland Park	11/17/2025	9	0	1	0
The Healthcare Resort of Topeka	2/13/2024	9	0	0	2
Trego County Lemke Memorial Hosp., Wakeeney	6/4/2025	9	0	1	3
Brewster Health Center, Topeka	6/11/2025	8	0	0	1
Diversicare of Larned	1/17/2024	8	1	0	0
Diversicare of Sedgwick	5/15/2025	8	0	1	0
Lakepoint Augusta LLC	10/31/2024	8	0	1	0
Life Care Center of Burlington	12/11/2024	8	0	0	3
Onaga Health & Rehab	10/2/2024	8	0	1	1
Park West Plaza, Wichita	6/25/2025	8	0	0	4
Citizens Health LTCU, Colby	8/7/2024	8	0	1	0
Via Christi Village Ridge, Wichita	4/4/2024	8	1	0	0
Sterling Village	1/23/2025	7	1	0	0
Evergreen Community of Johnson Co., Olathe	5/1/2024	7	1	0	0

Nursing Facility Performance Updates, continued

Facility Name	Last Survey	DEF	АН	IJ	ANE
Kansas Christian Home, Newton	7/3/2024	7	1	0	0
Locust Grove Village, LaCrosse	9/11/2024	7	0	1	1
McPherson Health & Rehab	4/23/2025	7	1	0	1
Via Christi Village, Manhattan	10/2/2024	7	1	0	0
Eastridge, Centralia	8/12/2025	6	0	1	0
Homestead Health Center, Wichita	8/28/2024	6	1	0	0
McCrite Plaza Health Center, Topeka	8/7/2024	6	0	1	0
Meadowlark Hills, Manhattan	4/9/2025	6	1	0	0
Parsons Presbyterian Manor	9/12/2024	6	0	0	1
Sandstone Heights Nursing Home, Little River	3/13/2025	6	1	0	0
Winfield Rest Haven II, LC	12/4/2024	5	1	0	0
Brighton Place West Health Ctr., Topeka	10/17/2024	4	1	0	0
Hilltop Manor Nursing Ctr, Cunningham	4/4/2024	4	2	0	1
Kansas Veterans Home, Wichita	4/23/2024	4	0	0	1
Kiowa District Manor	9/4/2025	4	0	1	0
Newton Presbyterian Manor	4/15/2024	4	1	0	0
Arma Health & Rehab	12/19/2024	3	0	1	1
Crestview Nursing & Residential Living, Seneca	10/24/2024	3	1	0	0
Moundridge Manor	9/25/2024	3	1	0	0
Protection Valley Manor	3/5/2025	3	0	1	0

Memorials

We are grateful for these gifts in memory of:

Mike & Rosemary Herold from Barb Conant

Lee Ketzel from Beth Cigler

Barbara W. Miller from Elizabeth Miller

Harriet Nehring from Maria Alexander

Warren H. Robinson from his children, Bess, Joe & Steve

John T. Stewart III from Linda Stewart



A Word About Paying for Nursing Home Care

Recently, KABC was contacted by a family member with concerns they have about using personal funds to pay for a parent's care in a nursing facility. "Am I, as DPOA and Trustee for my parent, required to be personally liable to pay for his/her care in a future nursing home? My parent has been in a nursing facility for skilled care. Medicare has paid for this treatment."

Federal law 485.15 Admission, transfer, and discharge reads 'The facility must not request or require a third party guarantee of payment to the facility as a condition of admission or expedited admission.' Therefore, as agent under DPOA and Trustee, there is an obligation to use resident's or trust property to pay for care, but not use his/her own resources.

If you are being asked to use your own funds to pay for a family member's care in a nursing facility, that is an illegal request. Do not sign any admission contract with a clause stating that you are. Contact the Kansas Dept. for Aging & Disability Services to report, or seek the advice of an attorney knowledgeable of this issue.

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.

Special Focus Facilities In the News

A federal government oversight agency says the program intended to improve resident care at some of the nation's worst nursing homes "is not working."

The Special Focus Facilities (SFF) program, which is administered by the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), identifies homes with serious, recurring quality-of-care issues and then imposes additional oversight on them in an effort to improve resident care.

That program "is not working," the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Inspector General says in a <u>new report</u>, citing evidence that the homes which successfully graduate from the program exhibit quality-of care deficiencies soon after.

Between 2013 and 2022, the report states, almost two-thirds of the nursing homes that were enrolled in the program improved enough to graduate, "but soon afterward showed the type of quality problems that put them in the SFF program in the first place."

At any given time, no more than two nursing homes per state appear on CMS' periodically updated list of Special Focus Facilities, although the list also includes hundreds of other nursing homes — typically, 10 per state — where ongoing quality-of-care violations have made them eligible for that status.

Once a home is designated a Special Focus Facility, it receives additional oversight and assistance from the government that's intended to improve resident care. The other homes that are merely deemed eligible do not receive that assistance. They appear on the list, some for as long as 10 years, and then drop off without ever receiving the federal help.

Kansas currently has two nursing facilities on the Special Focus list: Riverbend Post Acute Rehabilitation in KCK (8 months) and Access Mental Health in Peabody (13 months.) Both appear to be improving slightly. Another 10 facilities are considered SFF Candidates. KABC will continue to monitor inspections and report on any changes. If you would like information about any of these facilities, please contact us: info@kabc.org or 785-842-3088.

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

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 Livanta 888-755-5580

https://www.livantaqio.com/en/States/Kansas

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

For <u>one-stop</u> long-term care information: **Kansas Advocates for Better Care** Toll-free: **800-525-1782** Email: info@kabc.org Website: <u>www.kabc.org</u>

Happy Holidays!



** In Honor/Memory of: _____

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 button on the top of the screen at 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: \$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 _____

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

All gifts make a difference ~ Thank You!