

Dear Nursing Home Administrator,

The Nebraska Long Term Care (LTC) Ombudsman Program is a core member of Nebraska's *Advancing Excellence in America's Nursing Homes* campaign, which kicked off nationally on September 29, 2006 at a Nursing Home Quality Summit in Washington, DC. As you may be aware, this voluntary campaign targets eight measurable clinical quality and organizational improvement goals on which nursing homes can work to improve their quality of care. The campaign relies on Local Area Networks for Excellence (LANE) to disseminate information and encourage participation at the local level. Consumers are also invited to join.

In addition to the Nebraska LTC Ombudsman Program, AARP, Alzheimer's Association of the Great Plains, Alzheimer's Association of the Midlands, CIMRO of Nebraska, Nebraska Aging Enrichment Coalition, Nebraska Association of Homes and Services for the Aging, Nebraska Health and Human Services, Nebraska Health Care Association, Nebraska Hospice and Palliative Care Partnership, Nebraska Hospital Association, Nebraska Medical Directors Association, Southeast Community College - NH Administrator Program and others are working together in our state to support the campaign by lending leadership, organizational, technical and communications expertise.

The LTC Ombudsman Program, composed of staff and volunteers who advocate on behalf of nursing home residents, plans to disseminate the enclosed flyers to residents and their families across the state. The first flyer is geared toward current nursing home residents and families, while the second is geared toward individuals in the process of selecting a nursing home. The third flyer is our Ombudsman Program's *Selecting a Nursing Home Checklist* for consumers.

We will be encouraging residents and families to ask staff about their facility's involvement in the *Advancing Excellence* campaign, as well as encouraging them to ask questions about care and culture change activities. We will also be encouraging them to visit the *Advancing Excellence* campaign Web site, www.nhqualitycampaign.org and consider joining as consumer members.

We wanted you to have copies of the information we are sharing with residents and families, encourage you to participate in the *Advancing Excellence* campaign and invite you to share information about your facility's involvement in quality improvement and culture change activities.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Cindy Kadavy, State Long Term Care Ombudsman
Nebraska Health and Human Services System
(402) 471-4684 or (800) 942-7830
cindy.kadavy@hhss.ne.gov

