

KANSAS ADVOCATES for BETTER CARE

making elder care better every day

Keeping Up With Care ~ April 2021

The Kansas Experience

KABC is celebrating Occupational Therapy Month with Board Member Dr. Brandy Archie, OTD, OTR/L, CLIPP, CLVT. Dr. Archie is the founder of [AccessAble Living](#) in KC and Wichita, a company whose mission is to adapt environments to fit the needs of older adults and keep them living safely in their homes.

Dr. Brandy Archie received her doctorate in occupational therapy from Creighton University. She is certified specialist in both Living in Place and Low Vision Therapy. Dr. Archie has over 13 years of experience in home health, neurological and elder focused practice settings. She enjoys educating and offers continuing education classes for health care professionals and also guest lectures for OT programs in the Kansas City area.



Advocacy In Action

Much to KABC's surprise, Charlie's Bill, **HB 2004**, which would give older Kansans the right to appeal wrongful assisted living type facility (ALF) evictions, was left on the table in the House Children and Seniors Committee on March 25, 2021, despite an overwhelmingly favorable hearing on January 28, 2021. Now more than ever, older adults want to "age in place". Many ALFs promise exactly that but too often don't keep that promise. Residents are too often traumatized by illegal forced evictions. ALFs strongly opposed fair and lawful ALF eviction hearing as proposed in HB 2004. Chairwoman Concannon agreed to ask the Kansas Judicial Council to study the bill. KABC is disappointed the Committee did not move HB 2004. However, the bill remains alive and will carry over to the 2022 legislative session. KABC strong supports.

HB 2114, as amended, creating the Kansas Senior Services Task Force overwhelmingly passed both chambers. KABC supported the bill with amendments. The task force will study 7 issues: 1) Care of older adults with Alzheimer's and dementia; 2) Anti-psychotic usage in adult care homes; 3) Protections against elder abuse, neglect and exploitation; 4) adult care home surveys and fines; 5) Funding and implementation of the Senior Care Act; 6) Senior day care resources; 7) rebalancing home and community-based services (HCBS). KABC will serve on the Task Force. We supported the amendments to include the Alzheimer's Association, and more consumer representation among the members, along with more focus on HCBS. Both suggestions were ultimately amended into the bill.

Upcoming Events

KABC hosts free trainings year round. If you're interested in KABC presenting to your group, email Outreach Coordinator Claire Shanovich at claires@kabc.org or call the office.



Congratulations are in order to Barbara Conant, KABC's Public Policy Coordinator. Barb was recently appointed by Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt to the Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse Prevention Advisory Council. This council provides expert advice and input to the AGs office as they perform their duty to prevent, detect, investigate and prosecute the abuse of elder and dependent adults.

The Tax-Friendly Way To Better Care

Do you know that anyone over 70.5 can make a charitable gift from their IRA? This special gifting method also can satisfy your required minimum distribution for those 72 or older. Better yet, this method of giving can lower your income taxes, too!

You can provide better care to Kansas elders and save money on your taxes today by making a Qualified Charitable Donation or "QCD" from your IRA directly to KABC.

To learn more about utilizing this special gifting strategy or other beneficial ways to donate, contact Sustainability Coordinator Claire Shanovich, claires@kabc.org or by calling our office toll-free, 800-525-1782

**Support KABC
At No Cost!**

Dillons/Kroger

HB 2126, as amending the COVID-19 Response and Reopening COVID Business Liability Protection Act was sent to the Governor for her signature or veto. The bill overturns the 2020 compromise bill signed by the Governor which provided an affirmative defense to facilities. The new bill provides immunity to all adult care homes (both nursing facilities and assisted living facilities), [Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly \(PACE\)](#) and community mental health centers and providers of services for persons with intellectual or developmental disabilities for COVID-19 related claims, with certain exceptions, if the entity was in “substantial compliance” with federal and state law. This means that residents of these facilities who may have been injured through negligence or abuse cannot pursue a legal remedy if the harm was COVID related. The nursing home and ALF industry fought hard for this bill calling it their highest legislative priority for the session. KABC strongly opposed.

Resources

[AARP HomeFit Guide](#) helps people stay in the home they love by turning where they live into a “lifelong home,” suitable for themselves and anyone in their household. The guide offers solutions that range from simple do-it-yourself fixes to improvements that require skilled expertise.

[Living With Low Vision](#) a variety of eye conditions, including macular degeneration, glaucoma, and diabetic retinopathy, can make it difficult to complete daily tasks. This tip sheet from The American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) lists some of the ways in which occupational therapy practitioners help people with low vision to function at the highest possible level.

[Overcome Senior Driver Concerns With Occupational Therapy](#) this video made possible by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), provides a look into the ways occupational therapy can assist in senior drivers retaining their independence and mobility.

[The Care You Want](#) is KABC's guide to help older adults in Kansas get connected with the resources and services in their community to help them age safely at home.



April is National Celebrate Diversity Month

"We have become not a melting pot but a beautiful mosaic. Different people, different beliefs, different yearnings, different hopes, different dreams." ~ President Jimmy Carter

This month and every day KABC recognizes and celebrates the many forms of diversity that shape our world and our experiences with care. KABC believes long-term care services should be adapted to the diversity of individual consumers of care. This is why KABC promotes Person-Centered Care practices in care facilities and in the community. Person centered care is a focus on elders’ emotional needs and care preferences consistent with their lifestyle, founded on the core values of choice, dignity, respect and self determination. Our partners at the Alzheimer’s Association have a [great fact sheet on person-centered care](#).

There is also a need in long-term care for management to respect the diversity of the caregivers that work so hard each day to care for older adults. Respect for diversity, equity and inclusion can then become a way of caring for older and dependent adults with dignity and also respecting the value and dignity of professional caregivers.

Before you shop at Dillons be sure to [designate KABC as your Community Rewards Charity](#) to improve elder care as you shop. Click the photo to sign up and designate KABC as your charity of choice!



Amazon Smile

Amazon donates a percentage of each item purchased through their website to a charity of your choice. Before you click that “Buy Now” button, [designate KABC as your Amazon Smile charity](#) and better elder care with every purchase!



Your [donations](#) help strengthen our advocacy work to assure aging adults and Kansans with disabilities always have quality long-term care.

Thank you!

This month as we celebrate diversity, take time to recognize the diverse individuals that make up our communities. Whether it's age, ethnicity, culture or important traditions, by celebrating the uniqueness of others we can gain a greater appreciation for the diversity that surrounds us.



COVID-19 Resources

[CMS Fact Sheet on the Revised Visitation Guidance](#) the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services has updated visitation guidance for adult care facilities.

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### COVID-19 Updates

All Kansas adults are now eligible for COVID-19 vaccination. Kansas continues to make steady progress on the vaccination front – beginning March 29th we became one of 8 states opening vaccination for all adults. Please help get the word out to your colleagues and friends – this is one of the most effective ways to increase vaccine confidence! Running through June, KDHE's "[Roll Up Your Sleeves](#)" campaign will be advertised via broadcast, cable, digital, and radio.

Vaccines work! A [new report from the CDC](#) analyzed how well the vaccines worked among a diverse group of front-line working-age adults whose jobs make them more likely to be exposed to the virus and to spread it. Both Pfizer & Moderna were 90% effective after two doses in these real-life conditions. This is important news to share with those who have questions about whether the vaccines work.

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#### About Kansas Advocates for Better Care

KABC is a charitable 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose mission is to improve long-term care for older adults in Kansas. Our mission is achieved through public policy advocacy, trainings and education, and by providing guidance & support to older adults and their families who need help with long-term care issues.

#### Our Contact Information

\*{{Organization Name}}\*  
\*{{Organization Address}}\*  
\*{{Organization Phone}}\*  
\*{{Organization Website}}\*

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