



better elder care, no matter where

Keeping Up With Care ~ February 2022

The Kansas Experience

Aides and Nurses have different roles in providing care to older adults. **Kelly Sommers**, BSN, RN and Kansas State Nurses Association Director, joins KABC to share more about the differences. Kelly also tells us about the role of Temporary Aides in nursing homes during the COVID pandemic. [Watch the video interview with Kelly and KABC Director, Mitzi McFatrigh.](#)

Advocacy In Action

HB 2477 - extends emergency response provisions through January 20, 2023. Of specific interest are the provisions which allow temporary aides to care for older adults in care facilities with minimal training and no requirement for Registered Nurse supervision. To learn more, you can see a [side by side comparison of training and supervision](#) for Temporary Aides and Certified Nurse Aides. This bill was passed by the legislature and signed into law by the Governor already in January 2022.

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**HB 2004 - Charlie's Bill** would give residents living in assisted living and residential health care facilities, home plus, and boarding care homes the right to appeal an eviction. This is a key right that exists for nursing home residents, for renters and homeowners in the community, but is denied to residents in assisted living. [Learn more about Charlie's Bill.](#)

### Resources

#### **Is there a safe number of staff in your nursing home? The Care Compare Website is posting new staffing information.**

Beginning January 26, 2022, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is posting new information on the Care Compare website about how each facility is staffing to meet resident needs including Weekend Staffing and Staff Turnover.

Having well-trained care staff in adequate numbers is key to good quality care for residents. Kansas hasn't reached the safe average of 4.26 hours of care for every resident each day that is supported by research. KABC supports this safe care standard.

Check the [CMS Care Compare](#) website for more detail and see how your facility staffs to meet every resident's needs.



February is Heart Month and you can focus on a healthier heart. Heart-healthy living involves understanding your risk, making choices, and taking steps to reduce your chances of getting heart disease, including [coronary heart disease](#), the most common type. Coronary and other types of heart disease cause heart attacks, but by taking preventive measures, you can lower your risk of developing heart disease and also improve your overall health and well-being.

[Learn more about living a heart-healthy lifestyle.](#)

Don't forget that KABC has several [nutritious, delicious and heart-healthy recipes online](#) - for yourself and your Valentine!

## COVID-19 Resources

### Assistance with Ordering Free At-Home COVID-19 Tests

As a part of the White House initiative, free COVID-19 test kits are now available by [ordering online](#). [The Eldercare Locator](#) and the [Disability Information and Assistance Line](#) (DIAL) can assist older adults and people with disabilities with placing orders if they need additional help, connect people to accessible instructions, and help with administering the tests. Both phone lines are staffed Monday-Friday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. (Eastern).

### CMS: All Resident-Facing Staff in Long-Term Care Facilities in 24 States Must Be Vaccinated by March 15, 2022

In January, the Supreme Court ruled to uphold vaccine mandates for healthcare workers. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released a [memo](#) announcing its vaccination requirements and timelines for 24 states where the federal mandate can now move forward because of the Supreme Court's decision. In the memo to state surveyors, CMS said that all resident-facing staff must have at least one vaccination within 30 days and must be fully vaccinated by March 15. The rule applies to over 15,000 long-term care facilities that accept Medicare or Medicaid.

The memo applies to **Kansas** and the following states: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Utah, West Virginia, and Wyoming.

## KABC is Hiring

KABC is conducting a search for a full-time, dynamic Executive Director to lead the organization.

To learn more about this opportunity [see the job description.](#)

Interested parties may forward resumes to [info@kabc.org](mailto:info@kabc.org).

## Upcoming Events

*KABC hosts free trainings year round. If you're interested in KABC presenting to your group email [info@kabc.org](mailto:info@kabc.org) or call the office at 785-842-3088.*

## "Person Centered Approach for Crisis Preparedness"

A training opportunity from the KS Long-Term Care Ombudsman for residents, family, care providers and anyone interesting in learning more about how to better support older adult in long-term care

**February 9th, 2022  
12:00 pm to 1:30 pm**

[Register here.](#)

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## Give a Little Love this Valentine's Day!

Valentine's Day has been associated with Love since the 3rd Century when Saint Valentine was credited with marrying soldiers in secret ceremonies, establishing his reputation for believing in the importance of love.

Would you like to give a gift that boosts your mood and brings joy to an older adult you love, while helping improve elder care?

Make a Love donation to KABC in honor or memory of someone special in your life on Valentine's Day or anytime this month. It is a wonderful gift and one that keeps on giving through KABC's advocacy work, the free resources we share, and the support we give when elders and families call for help.

**Please click the red Donate Now button and make a secure, love-filled gift online.  
Thank you!**

**DONATE NOW**

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## Support KABC At No Cost!

### Dillons/Kroger

Before your next shopping trip to Dillon's, 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!



**KABC's 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.

### **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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