



# COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**Contact:** Christine O'Connell (858) 505-6322

## **NURSING HOME OMBUDSMEN NEEDED** *County Health and Human Services Agency Offers Training in September*

The County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency's Long-Term Care Ombudsman program is looking for volunteers to help safeguard the rights of residents in nursing homes and, board and care facilities. A free training course for volunteer ombudsmen will begin in September.

Ombudsman volunteers advocate for the quality of life and quality of care for long-term care residents. They also maintain a regular presence in more than 675 skilled nursing facilities and residential care facilities for the elderly in San Diego County.

"Without ombudsmen, many residents in nursing homes or long-term care facilities would have no one to speak out for them," said First District Supervisor Greg Cox. "Ombudsmen provide a critical voice for the elderly, blind, and disabled individuals who, in many cases, cannot speak for themselves."

Volunteers must successfully complete a 40-hour training course, 10 hours of fieldwork and be available five hours per week to be recommended for state certification as a Long-Term Care Ombudsman.

The training will be held on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays between Sept. 11 and Sept. 28. Classes will be held at the HHSA Training and Development office, Suite G, 5201 Ruffin Road, San Diego, CA 92123.

To register or to obtain additional information, call (858) 560-2507 or toll-free at (800) 640-4661.

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