



Advisory Council for Aging & Independence Services LTC Ombudsman and Facilities Subcommittee

April 14, 2025 | 10:30 a.m.

5560 Overland Ave, MSSP Conference Room, 3rd Floor

Virtual Participation

Call in: 619-343-2539

Phone conference ID: 766 089 682#

Meeting ID: 269 978 879 218

Passcode: LF7dq7c3

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AGENDA

*Attachment

- 1. Call to Order:** Dan McNamara, Chair
 - a. Welcome & Guest/Member Introductions
 - b. Confirmation of quorum (quorum = 3)
- 2. Statement (just cause) and/or Consideration of a Request to Participate Remotely (emergency circumstances) by a Council Member, if applicable.** (Possible Action)
- 3. Standard Business:**
 - a. Public Comment/Announcements: Members or Non-members
- 4. General Discussion:**
 - a. Review Draft Letter with Recommendations*
 - b. Live Well Meeting Updates
 - c. Discussion to Develop a Strategy for Increasing LTC Ombudsman Subcommittee
- 5. Next Meeting:** May 12, 2025, 10:30 a.m.
- 6. Adjournment**

*This meeting is public, and the location is ADA accessible.
If you are planning to attend and need special accommodations,
please call (858) 495-5885 at least three days in advance of the meeting.*

Supporting documentation and attachments for items listed on this agenda may be viewed at Aging & Independence Services, 5560 Overland Avenue, Suite 310, San Diego, CA 92123, or received by calling (858) 495-5885.

Long Term Care Ombudsman and Facilities Sub-Committee

Memo: Recommendation to the Aging and Independence Services General Advisory Council

Date: April 2025

Introduction

In partial fulfillment of the LTCO-F subcommittee's goals; the committee is to Monitor and Advise AIS on the Long Term Care Ombudsman program standard of operations, goals, performance, and increasing the number of volunteers as well as advise on areas of concern related to long term care. To that end and after an exhaustive investigation and research we make the following recommendations.

- **First the Long Term Care Ombudsman and Facilities Committee (LTCOC) commends the Office of the Long Term Care Ombudsman (OLTCO) for managing and recovering from the Covid Pandemic. Volunteer numbers are growing again and the OLTCO has been able to decrease the time it takes to have a volunteer ready to start supporting people in long term care facilities.**

The LTCOC

- **Research**
Over the course of 2024, the LTCOF subcommittee has dedicated significant time to research LTCOF's policies and procedures at a state level and local level. Additionally, during our monthly meetings in an effort to understanding the challenges of the LTCOF program, we have invited LTCOF staff and other county members to join our meetings.
- **Discovery/Findings**
One of the key findings is that the LTCOF program has experienced a drastic reduction in volunteers since the implementation of fit testing for respirator masks at initial/annual physicals. The respirator fit testing is required for all LTCOF staff/volunteers entering facilities in San Diego County. We have not found a similar requirement in any other OLTO programs in California. The physical, which takes place at Concentra, requires a basic document to be signed, indicating that a volunteer may have to undergo invasive testing because of the findings during initial physical. This additional testing may include pelvic examine.

These two findings have been identified as key barriers for LTCOF volunteers to remain in the program and for potential volunteers to proceed, resulting in insufficient volunteers to meet the program's needs.

- Recommendations
 1. The LTCOF subcommittee recommends that the AIS General Council formally recommend to the AIS leadership team to remove the fit testing requirements for LTCOF program volunteers and revise the physical testing documentation to remove probing language. Fit testing should no longer be required as respirators are no longer required for all visitors and staff of SNF/AL/MC facilities.
 2. The San Diego County team should revise and create its own volunteer physical form in collaboration with Concentra to remove any language that is not pertinent to county volunteer work to avoid confusion for potential/current volunteers.

Next Steps

1. Discuss the recommendation at the AIS General Advisory Council meeting.
2. Outline recommended changes.
3. Formally submit the recommendation to AIS leadership.