

# Illinois Long-Term Care Council Annual Report FY2023

State of Illinois  
JB Pritzker, Governor

Illinois Department on Aging  
Paula Basta, Director

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## **The Authority and Purpose of the Illinois Long Term Care Council**

The Illinois Long Term Care Council (Council) was created in August 2003 by Public Act 93-0498, which added Section 4.04a of the Illinois Act on the Aging (Act) (20 ILCS 105/4.04a).

The purpose of the Council is to ensure high quality of care for persons aged 60 or older who need long-term care in the continuum of care – from home care to nursing home care. The Council provides a forum for making recommendations on systemic issues affecting the continuum of long-term care, and the efficacy of the State Long Term Care Ombudsman Program.

The Council makes recommendations concerning persons who need services in the continuum of long-term care. This includes persons living in facilities licensed or regulated under the:

- (1) Nursing Home Care Act: Skilled Nursing and Intermediate Care Facilities Code, Intermediate Care for Persons with Developmental Disabilities Code, Sheltered Care Facilities Code, and Illinois Veterans Homes Code
- (2) Assisted Living and Shared Housing Establishment Code
- (3) Community services including Supportive Living Facilities, regulated under the Illinois Department of Health Care and Family Services through a federal waiver (89 Ill. Adm. Code Part 146), Adult Day Care and any other type of long-term care provided in a home or other environment

## **Council Mandates**

Mandate I. Make recommendations and comment on issues pertaining to long-term care and the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program to the Illinois Department on Aging (Department).

Mandate II. Advise the Department of Public Health and the Department on Aging matters pertaining to the quality of life and quality of care in the continuum of long-term care.

Mandate III. Evaluate, comment on reports regarding, and make recommendations on the quality of life and quality of care in long-term care facilities and on the duties and responsibilities of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program.

Mandate IV. Provide an opportunity for public input at each scheduled meeting.

## **Legislative Updates from the Office of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman**

Listed below are the legislative initiatives proposed by the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program which were passed by both chambers during the 103<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly.

HB2858 modifies reporting requirements of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman and all representatives of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program to ensure compliance with federal consent requirements when reporting abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

The legislation also amended the Act to ensure ombudsmen are allowed to not only inspect, but to also receive copies of resident records with the consent of the resident. This change will remove challenges ombudsman previously encountered in long-term care facilities when obtaining copies of records necessary to fully investigate and resolve resident complaints.

## New Member Recruitment

Over the last several years, the Council lost members due to resignations, term limitations, and the lingering impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Rebuilding the membership continues to be an ongoing focus. As a result, in addition to the members added in FY2022, new members were also added in FY2023 including two current nursing home residents and one member who is a former nursing home resident. The Department will continue to work on securing new members to ensure the Council is comprised of the diverse background envisioned by the Act.

## By-Laws Revisions

The Council voted to revise the by-laws in February 2023. The updates focused on modernizing and simplifying the language. A copy is available on the Department's website at <https://ilaging.illinois.gov/forprofessionals/ltc/ltc-council.html>.

## 2024 Council Goals

The Council discussed several goals for the year and a survey was developed to rank the goals in order of priority and they are listed below:

1. Pursue required training for CNA's focusing on compassion and empathy towards long-term care residents and the aging population
2. Advocate for person-centered care in long-term care facilities
3. Discuss and propose legislative solutions from problems identified in long-term care facilities

## Long-term Care Council Members

Category	Name	Organization	1st Term	2nd term
Current or former resident of LTC facility or family member (minimum of 3)	Julie Preston	Family member	4 year – 7/16-7/20	7/20-7/24
	Margie Logman	Former Resident	4 year – 12/22-11/26	
	Bruce Carmona	Former Resident	4 year – 9/21-8/25	
Current or former long-term care facility resident council or family council member (minimum of 2)	Melinda McDonald	Resident	4 year – 1/20-12/24	4 year -
	Peter Basquin	Resident	4 year – 10/22-9/26	
	Ebony Payne	Resident	4 year – 6/23-5/27	
	Scott Mitchell	Resident	4 year – 5/23-4/27	
Organizations consisting of long-term care facilities (minimum of 4)	Kim Stoerger	Illinois Healthcare Association	4 year – 1/20-12/24	
	Ashley Snavelly	Illinois Healthcare Association	4 year – 12/22-11/26	
	Karin Zosel	Affordable Assistive Living Coalition	4 year – 9/20-8/24	
Long-term Care facility employee representative (minimum of 1)	Vacant			
Membership-based	Jennifer Belkov	Alzheimer's Association	4 year- 3/22-2/26	4 year -

senior/consumer organizations (minimum of 2)	Casey Bailey	Molina Health Case Manager	4 year – 9/21-8/25	
	Marsha Johnson	Illinois Council of Case Coordination Units	4 year - 1/14-12/18	1/19-12/21
	Lori Hendren	AARP	4 year - 4/15 - 3/19	4/19-3/23
	Stacey Aschemann	Equip for Equality	4 year – 3/21-2/25	
State Agency Representatives (non- voting)	Paula Basta	Illinois Department on Aging Director		
	Josh Potts	Secretary of State		
	Sheila Baker	Illinois Department of Public Health		
	Rahnee Patrick	Division of Rehabilitation Services		
	Anthony Vaughn	Veteran's Affairs		
	Janene Brickey	HFS		
	Teresa Park	Illinois Guardianship and Advocacy Commission		
	Angela Simmons	Veterans Homes		
	Cathy Barbour	Medicaid Fraud Unit		
	Ali Johnson	Department of Human Service		
	Vacant	DHS, Div. of Developmental Disabilities		
Office of the State LTC Ombudsman (State Ombudsman: voting member)	Kelly Richards	Illinois Department on Aging		
	Lee Moriarty	Illinois Department on Aging		
	Joe Danner	Illinois Department on Aging		
	Jessica Belsly	Illinois Department on Aging		
	Farrah Borders	Illinois Department on Aging		

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