

CANHR Program Report 2012

Following are some of the highlights of CANHR's work in 2012:

Campaign to Stop Drugging in Nursing Home

CANHR's statewide **Campaign to Fight Drugging of Nursing Home Residents**, launched in late 2010, has resulted in an extraordinary response by consumers, legislators, and policy makers. The Campaign included a first-of-its-kind website (www.canhr.org/stop-drugging) that focuses exclusively on describing, fighting and ending the pervasive use of antipsychotic drugs as chemical restraints in nursing homes; a free consumer guide on how to fight nursing home misuse of psychoactive drugs; a CANHR video series on how to prevent drugging of nursing home residents; specific information on each California nursing home's use of antipsychotic drugs and other psychoactive medications; and a petition urging the Governor to crack down on nursing home misuse of psychoactive drugs.

CANHR is leading state and national workgroups that are working to achieve this goal. At the national level, the workgroup includes the Center for Medicare Advocacy, the National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care, the Long Term Care Community Coalition, and the Legal Aid Justice Center. In 2012, the group met with the administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), persuaded CMS to establish a national campaign to stop misuse of antipsychotic drugs, participated in various workgroups related to the initiative, obtained and publicized federal data on each nursing home's use of psychoactive drugs, and made numerous recommendations to improve federal oversight and enforcement related to antipsychotic abuse in nursing homes.

At the State level, CANHR is working with several legal service programs and local long term care ombudsman to plan and present educational symposia throughout the state on rights concerning chemical restraints and effective ways to give dementia care without drugs. In June 2012, CANHR, Bet Tzedek Legal Services, Elder Law & Advocacy and other co-sponsors presented daylong symposia in Los Angeles and San Diego to over 300 caregivers and advocates. More presentations to be co-sponsored with legal services programs are in the works for 2013.

CANHR and other members of the California Least Medicating advocacy group also participated in a series of meetings hosted by the California Department of Public Health and the Region IX office of CMS known as the California Partnership to Improve Dementia Care and Reduce Unnecessary Antipsychotic Medication Drug Use in Nursing Homes. The partnership set a goal for California to lead the nation in stopping misuse of antipsychotic drugs in nursing homes.

Residential Care For the Elderly (RCFEs)

CANHR facilitates quarterly meetings with the Department of Social Services regarding residential care facilities and provides follow-up information. During 2012, there were three (3) meetings with CCL staff, in January, May and September, in addition to several conference calls regarding implementation of SB 897, the RCFE Foreclosure Act that passed in 2011 and was co-sponsored by CANHR and Bet Tzedek Legal Services.

Consumer Resources

In 2012, CANHR assisted the Center of Excellence on Elder Abuse and Neglect at UC Irvine School of Medicine in creating a resource guide for veterans to protect themselves from scams and financial abuse. The guide was publicized and posted on line at:

<http://www.centeronelderabuse.org/veterans.asp>

www.canhr.org

CANHR's web site, www.canhr.org and its two search sites, nursing home guide and residential care guide, now received over 25,000 visitors per month. These include consumers, legal services and private bar attorneys, long-term care professionals and others. The web site feedback form allows consumers to get answers to questions and referrals on a daily basis providing pre-placement counseling, information on resident and consumer rights, legal services support and referrals through our Lawyer Referral Services. All of the consumer fact sheets can be downloaded, and most are available Spanish and Chinese.

Consumer Outreach & Advocacy

During 2012, CANHR staff made 156 presentations to community groups, family councils, social workers, health care providers, government agency staff and other advocates and policy makers throughout California. Topics included Medi-Cal for long-term care, estate recovery, residential care rights, family councils and elder financial abuse, among others. The information that CANHR receives from consumers and legal services staff informs our advocacy and helps us to direct our resources to those policy areas identified by consumers of care and their advocates.

CANHR also assists with Family Council Organizing, which involves speaking to family councils, providing technical assistance to family councils and promoting family council organizing whenever possible. CANHR's **Family Council CD, "Organizing a Family Council,"** along with the Family Council Organizing materials, was distributed without charge to consumers in California and around the country.

Legal Services Delivery

As a qualified Legal Services Support Center, CANHR staff provided California's legal services projects with training, advocacy assistance and technical assistance. CANHR staff also assisted hundreds of individual clients referred by legal services programs and others on a variety of long term care-related issues. CANHR presented a number of trainings – both on-site and on-line- to legal services staff on legal issues such as resident rights, Medi-Cal, aging and incapacity, VA Aid and Attendance and elder financial abuse, and assisted individual legal services staff with technical assistance and consultations in response to phone or email requests for assistance.

CANHR's financial statements are available through the California Attorney General's Office web site <http://ag.ca.gov/charities/> or upon request from the CANHR office.

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