

Steve Sisolak
Governor

Richard Whitley,
MS
Director



DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES DIVISION
Helping people. It's who we are and what we do.



Dena Schmidt
Administrator

December 5th, 2022

To: Peter Reed, Chair and Members of the Task Force on Alzheimer's Disease (TFAD)
Re: State Plan Recommendation regarding Development of Choice and Care Setting

Chair Reed and Members,

As the State Long Term Care Ombudsman for Nevada, it is my duty to be a voice and advocate for the residents in long term care settings. The Office of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman is regulated by Nevada Revised Statutes 427A.125. The Long-Term Care Ombudsman visit licensed long-term care facilities such as residential facility for groups and skilled nursing facilities on a monthly basis as well as investigate complaint investigations with the consent of the resident or legal representative.

The Office has the unique privilege to identify systemic issues in the long-term care community and there is change that is needed in this area regarding locked and segregated settings. The Office has advocated for numerous residents who were inappropriately admitted into locked units of residential facilities for groups and skilled nursing. The residents had Power of Attorney representatives who did not execute the least restrictive setting before this placement.

The admission process currently needs reform as there is no standardization or continuity when residents are admitted to locked settings. Each facility has a different process for admission; therefore, residents are admitted inappropriately without a valid reason such as elopement or the need for staffing ratios to meet the care needs. Residents receive an evaluation from a Physician they may or may not know who will determine if the setting is appropriate; a locked unit is the most restrictive environment and there should be great scrutiny when determining if someone will lose the right to move freely.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide additional information on this issue.

Marie Coe
Nevada State Long-Term Care Ombudsman