## Importance of Family Councils

- Residents speak for themselves.
- Residents help to choose services provided.
- Residents invite speakers of their choice.
- Residents can identify concerns and problem-solve.
- Residents can be a voice for those who cannot speak for themselves.
- Residents have the right to meet in privacy if they choose, without the interference of the facility staff.
- The Resident Council has the right to recommend changes regarding facility policies.
- If the facility does not already have a Resident Council, it must try to establish one.

### Questions Please Contact Us

#### Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program

Carson City Administrative Office 3416 Goni Road, Suite D Carson City, Nevada 89706 775-687-4210 775-687-4264 (Fax)

Las Vegas Regional Office 1860 East Sahara Avenue Las Vegas, Nevada 89104 702-486-3545 702-486-3572 (Fax)

Reno Regional Office 9670 Gateway Drive Suite 200 Reno, Nevada 89521 775-687-0800 775-688-2969 (Fax)

Elko Regional Office 1010 Ruby Vista Drive, Suite 104 Elko, Nevada 89801 775-738-1966 775-753-8543 (Fax)

To report concerns in a long term care facility please call: 1-888-282-1155

www.adsd.nv.gov

## FAMILY COUNCILS

An Informational Brochure From the Nevada Long Term Care Ombudsman Program



State of Nevada Aging and Disability Services Division

## What is Resident Council?

An organization within the Nursing Home or Assisted Living Facility whose members are residents of the home. All residents in the facility can participate.

- A Resident Council is supported by Federal and state regulations.
- Resident Councils are self-governing.
- Residents are in control of the planning and running of the meeting as much as possible.
- Staff member will act as liaison.
- A staff member should only give as much assistance as the residents need or request.
- The facility must provide residents with a private meeting space.

# Why have a Resident Council?

- Promote independence and personal growth.
- Provide opportunity for new relationships.
- Allows residents to speak out.
- Allows the resident to help the facility run more smoothly.
- Allows residents to play an active role in decisions made about their home life, such as activities, food, and personal care.
- Residents can promote and protect the rights of all residents in the facility.



### Effective Resident Councils Can:

- Improve communication between staff and residents.
- Serve as a source of new ideas and help identify quality of life issues.
- Help individual residents speak up in a collective voice for improvement.
- Assist the facility in planning activities and events.
- Promote friendship between residents through regular meetings.
- Improve the atmosphere of the facility.
- Council always recruits new members.