

Julie, the following gives a summary of what we are up to in Michigan. The Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program mentioned is our SHIP program. Priscilla Cheever is sending out an e mail to our local Ombudsmen asking them to gather and report to her data about people they encounter; she will cc you on this.

The Michigan Association of Homes and Services to the Aging (AAHSA affiliate) is surveying their members nearby for vacancies in nursing homes, assisted living and independent living apartments, which will be forward to the local Department of Human Services person (our welfare department) who is the designated agency to make placements from the receiving shelter at Fort Custer in Battle Creek Michigan.

Please share any of this that looks helpful with other Ombudsmen. One helpful thing would be if you can alert the other Ombudsmen that we are trying to keep a list of elders and people with disabilities who end up in Michigan and will be available to help match people back up with their family members as this goes on.

Sarah

I heard from our local Ombudsman John Weir this morning that he is also hearing from LTC providers that some more people have moved to nursing homes.

Could you send a list of who is moving where from Fort Custer? If the list is already in electronic form and includes young families, children, etc., whom we do not deal with, that's OK - I don't want you to have to create an extra list. The Ombudsman program has strict confidentiality requirements, is a health service organization under HIPAA and sharing with us should not violate any of your privacy requirements.

We will visit all people who end up in any kind of long term care facility. The Area Agencies on Aging can be helpful to other people (age 60 and up, but I'm sure they can help others too if needed) who move to independent settings like other shelters, apartments, mobile homes, houses, etc. E mail me if you need Area Agency on Aging contact info, but we will be referring people to them and that may be the most streamlined mechanism.

We will be keeping a running list of all people who are in LTC and be a contact point for the Ombudsmen from southern states who will end up working with families trying to find their evacuated elders.

Other activities on my end:

1. I have contacted MDCH, Mary Rehburg, and she will deploy Community Mental health workers to visit with elderly people we identify as needing that service.

2. Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Volunteers will visit the elders we know about to help them apply for benefits (including Medicare and Medicaid) sometime next week.

Please contact me with any concerns or questions, and please send the list as soon as you can.