



2022 Annual Report

Governor's Office of
Elderly Affairs

Prepared on Behalf of
Louisiana Executive
Board on Aging

Chairwoman
Leslie Keen

Vice-Chairwoman
Ann Keene

BOARD MEMBERS

What are the functions of LEBA? RS46:934A states that “. The board shall develop and implement policies and procedures pertaining to the Office of Elderly Affairs and its functions, shall approve matters of policy and all rules and regulations promulgated by the board or the office which pertain to elderly affairs and voluntary parish councils on aging, shall review and make recommendations to the director on matters of general importance and relevance to the planning, monitoring, coordination, and delivery of services to the elderly of the state, and shall prepare and submit an annual report to the legislature and to the governor sixty days prior to the legislative session.”



Member	PSC #
Leslie Keen, Chairwoman	1
Ricco Thomas	2
Emily Tilley	3
Vacant	4
Worlita Jackson	5
Charles "Buddy" Pugh	1
Homer "Gerard" Landry	2
Willie Lewis	3
Terry Courville	4
Blanche Wilks	5
Huey Beverly	1
Heather Prejean	2
Johnny Berthelot	3
Donald Mallet	4
Ann Keene, Vice-Chairwoman	5

CHAIRWOMAN'S LETTER

It is with great pleasure that I have the privilege to present the Annual Report for FY2022. The Report describes the key activities and efforts of the State Unit on Aging as mandated by the Older Americans Act. The Louisiana Executive Board on Aging, established within the Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs, serves as an effective advocate for the interests and concerns of the older adults and their families in the great state of Louisiana. In FY2022, despite the continuing challenges presented by the global pandemic, the Louisiana Executive Board on Aging (LEBA) continued to monitor the Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs (GOEA) in achieving the goals and vision of the senior community. The LEBA board truly recognizes and thanks the State Unit on Aging, Area Agencies (AAA) on Aging and Councils on Aging (COA) for their initiatives and support of older adults.

The aging network did not close during the pandemic that began March 2020. They transitioned from in-person to non-congregate services for the elderly citizens of Louisiana. They provided home delivered meals, transportation, telephoned participants, developed virtual activities through Zoom and provided fun in-home activity kits. Most participants returned to in-person services after the Governor ended the public health emergency for Louisiana in March 2022. Although, the aging network continues hybrid services for those participants that still are not quite currently comfortable with returning to the Senior Centers. The senior center staff are able to accommodate those who prefer not to return in-person, as President Biden has not lifted the Federal Public Health Emergency.

I am proud to say that senior center members ARE returning to congregate settings. GOEA's most recent statistics indicate that aging network providers, funded through GOEA, have increased congregate meal services by 84%, health promotion and disease prevention activities 209%, transportation trips 64%, legal assistance by 29%, counseling/caregiver support training by 175% and information and assistance efforts by 21%, compared to FY21.

While virtual events were an alternative option, in-person events, i.e., health fairs, annual meetings, picnics, Pointe Coupee COA Crawfish Boil, East Baton Rouge COA Senior Skip Day, East Carrol COA's Fish Fry, Older Americans' Month (May) activities throughout the network (to name a few) and other activities such as Ascension COA Zumba, Bingo, Tai Chi other evidence-based wellness classes are all ways to combat social isolation and depression among the senior community. Then there was GOEA's CENLA Legal Law Boot Camp in Pineville, LA that provided the elderly with legal advice about social security, wills, power of attorney, and more. Just think, these events and activities happened in the aging network in Louisiana during FY2022. In many cases, the "boots on the ground" in the aging network are the extension of the family and home of many seniors throughout Louisiana.

Therefore, I'd like to take this moment to recognize not only the staff with the Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs, but throughout the aging network - Area Agencies on Aging, Councils on Aging, Senior Centers, legal service providers, the guardianship program, etc. These front-line staff and volunteers are often seen as an extension of personal friendship and in some cases family, and quite possibly the only human in-person touch seniors have in a full-day. The support these individuals provide is priceless. Thank you for your continued commitment. This dedication is evident by the data reported in this annual report.

Additionally, thank you too to the funding sources – The State of Louisiana, our federal partner the Administration for Community Living and the parish governments. A special thank you to the Louisiana Legislature for its support of the aging network and the Governor's signature on HB-1 for FY2023. The Senior Centers in Louisiana are 100% state funded. The Legislature's allocations for FY2023 included a base increase of \$25,000 for senior centers. This means that the minimum funding that a senior center will receive is \$50,000.

The goal of LEBA and the Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs is to continue to serve as an effective and visible advocate for the elderly population in Louisiana ensuring seniors in need receive appropriate services from providers. LEBA pledges to continue to work with the Louisiana Legislature and other stakeholders to obtain the resources needed to improve the quality of life for Louisiana's seniors, supporting their desires to remain in their homes and communities for as long as they desire.

Gratefully,



Leslie Louviere Keen



OUR VISION

Ours is a changing and aging population. According to the 2021 Census estimates, Louisiana's elderly population crossed the million-person threshold (1,069,128 for 60 plus citizens) constituting 23.1% of our state's total population. For the first time in its history, there are more seniors living and working in Louisiana than there are persons under the age of 15.

The Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs' (GOEA's) core programs provide a wide range of in-home and community-based supports that are helping older adults remain independent, active and at home. These programs fulfill the Aging Network's responsibility to bring together and coordinate a variety of services and activities for older adults. All Older Americans Act services specifically target the most vulnerable seniors in Louisiana; these clients tend to be among the oldest of the old.

MISSION

To serve as the focal point for the development implementation and administration of public policy for the state of Louisiana to address the needs of the states' elderly citizens.

PHILOSOPHY

As the State Unit on Aging, GOEA is designated by the Governor and the Legislature to be the sole state agency representative for coordinating the programs and services designed to meet the needs of Louisiana's seniors. We work to promote the dignity of older adults by providing services and supports that enable them to remain as independent as possible and remain active and productive in their own homes and communities through the following:

- Building partnerships with communities, organizations, agencies, families, and individuals, GOEA works to ensure the availability and accessibility of a continuum of services designed to meet the needs of all older Louisianans.
- Promoting education and public awareness about the aging process, including current trends in aging, the current older population, and projections of future generations of older persons.
- Supporting inter-generational activities between our seniors and younger generations to foster a mutual understanding, support, shared values, and personal responsibility.
- Intervening to protect vulnerable seniors from exploitation and abuse.

AGENCY GOAL

To serve as an effective and visible advocate for the elderly population in Louisiana, ensuring seniors in need receive appropriate services from providers in the Aging Network.

OLDER AMERICANS ACT

Over the past 50 years, the Older Americans Act ("OAA") has provided services that assist and support older adults to maintain their independence and remain in their homes.

2022 PROGRAM STATISTICS

Number of Service Units Provided by Program

Personal Care	21,305
Homemaker	117,246
Chore	4,458
Transportation	315,413
Legal Assistance	4,612
Information & Assistance	59,553
Outreach	9,820
Material Aid	71,335
Recreation/Health	254,846
Telephoning	163,330
Respite Care	72,762
Nutrition Education & Counseling	14,602

Nutrition Programs

5.13 MILLION MEALS

39,075 SENIORS

OAA programs are vital for seniors who are at significant risk of hunger, isolation, and losing the ability to live independently

CONGREGATE MEALS

890,873

MEALS SERVED



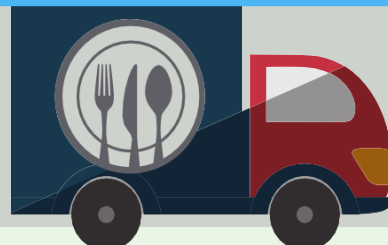
11,628

SENIORS SERVED

HOME-DELIVERED MEALS

4,241,806

MEALS DELIVERED



27,447

SENIORS SERVED

Meals delivered to seniors' doorsteps provide both nutrition and comfort to avulnerable population, keeping seniors in their own homes

LONG-TERM CARE



OMBUDSMEN

INVESTIGATION COMPLAINTS

WHAT IS AN OMBUDSMAN?

Ombudsmen are workers, both paid state and volunteer, who investigate and resolve complaints made by, or on behalf of elderly residents of



"LONG TERM CARE FACILITIES"

WHAT IS INCLUDED IN

"LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES"?

- Nursing homes
- Assisted living
- Personal Care Homes that serve individuals aged 60 years and older who are elderly, and/or disabled.

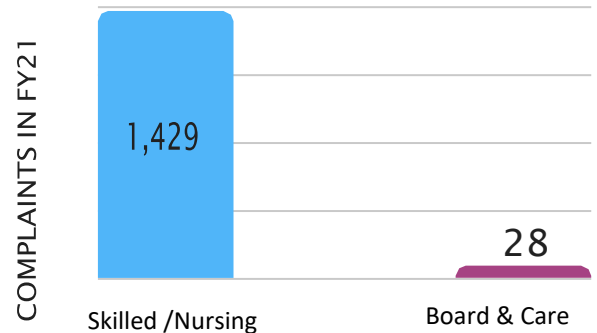
ADVOCACY & PROTECTION

WHY AN OMBUDSMAN?

Residents in Long-Term Care Facilities sometimes have little or no contact with the outside world and feel helpless in controlling their own lives. The Ombudsman is a voice for residents to help them solve their problems and assist them in understanding what is happening to them.



NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS BY FACILITY TYPE



TO WHAT KINDS OF COMPLAINTS DOES AN OMBUDSMAN RESPOND?

Ombudsmen are interested in every problem, complaint, or concern that a resident may have.



Common problems include:

- Quality of care
 - Food
 - Financial Exploitation
 - Social Services and Activities
 - Visitation and Access
- Any issue that affects the residents' ability to exercise their rights as a resident or a citizen

OTHER PROGRAMS FOR SENIORS

AGING AND DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER AND SENIORRX

The Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) is a collaborative effort of GOEA, Administration on Aging (AOA), and the Center for Medicare and Medicaid services connecting seniors with available long-term support and services. ADRC's provide a single entry point for all long-term supports funded by Medicaid, Older Americans Act (OAA), and state revenue programs.

The SenioRx program connects qualified, low-income individuals with discount prescription drugs direct from the pharmaceutical manufacturer. Trained counselors are available to provide Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Coverage Plan Comparisons and Enrollment Assistance.

ADRC, SENIORX & RX ASSISTANCE

52,866

Clients provided with access to free or low-cost prescription drugs

DRUG SAVINGS TO SENIORS

\$13,879,369

Drug savings to consumers and the state

FOR EVERY STATE DOLLAR INVESTED

\$12.98

Dollars saved by seniors through the SenioRx/ADRC Programs

MEDICARE PART D COUNSELING AND ASSISTANCE

9,361

Number of clients provided enrollment assistance and/or counseling for Medicare Part D

Family Caregiver Support

The **Family Caregiver Support Program** helps caregivers of all ages balance caregiving with other responsibilities to ensure more seniors stay in their homes and communities.

5,373

Caregivers Served

101,002

Units Provided

Answering the Call:

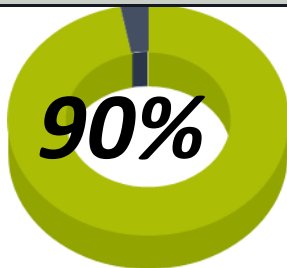
ELDERLY PROTECTIVE SERVICES (EPS)



Louisiana Law protects persons aged 60 years and older from physical or emotional abuse, neglect from caregivers, theft and misuse of funds, and self-neglect. ALL suspected abuse should be reported to EPS to investigate. EPS staff investigates all eligible causes of abuse, neglect, and/or exploitation, intervenes when and where appropriate, and prepares a plan of resolution, monitoring at each step until the situation is stabilized and the client is safe.

What types of abuse are occurring?

Reported Abuse	Reports in Fiscal 2022
Caregiver Neglect	1,112
Emotional Abuse	813
Extortion	190
Financial Exploitation	942
Physical Abuse	348
Self-Neglect	1,433
Sexual Abuse	24
Other	0



PERCENT OF INTAKE INVESTIGATED BY EPS

- Intake cases investigated by EPS
- Intake cases not meeting criteria for services

*There's
NO EXCUSE
For Elder Abuse!*



HIGH-PRIORITY
REPORTS IN
2022