



Willapa Community Network Newsletter

July 2018

Our Vision

Our vision is a thriving, connected, community achieved through enhanced leveraging of resources and services in north Pacific County.

Our Mission

Our mission is to support an inclusive community network that encourages communication and collaboration among service providers, business, and volunteers, to enhance quality of life in north Pacific County.

Next Meeting:

WCN meets on the first Wednesday of each month—all are invited to attend.

11:00 am—1:00 pm

Willapa Harbor Hospital

Cedar Conference Room

**Big Brothers
Big Sisters
of SW
WA**

Become a Big (Big Brothers Big Sisters)

Mentor a young person

and make

a huge difference in their lives with only a few hours a month. Contact Robyn@swwabigs.org

Bookworm Buddies

Inspire students to read in just 30 minutes a week.

No experience required.

Contact Robyn@swwabigs.org



**AUGUST 4TH
RUN TO END
DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE**

5K Walk/Run in loving memory of Lisa Bonney
Crisis Support Network would like you and your pets to come run with us to support our efforts in educating the public on Domestic Violence.



11:00AM @ Bolstad Beach Approach

Register online today!

crisis-support.org

Register in person at the Train Depot Aug 4th 9:00am-10:30am

Pets are welcome on a leash!

**Crisis Support Network
318 2nd St. Long Beach,
Washington 98631**

(360) 642-0095

crisis-support.org

The Older Americans Act of 1965 by Dave Aldrich

The Older Americans Act of 1965 created the Area Agencies on Aging that exist to provide the information and assistance that folks from all walks of life depend upon as they seek advice and support while they consider their options for staying independent and options for their family members that need similar support.

The Older Americans Act mandated the creation of a structured support program for which the following programs were developed.

- Administration on Aging (AoA) established under the Department of Health and Human Services as the federal level advocate for the aging population, and coordinator for service delivery to the elderly
- National Eldercare Locator Service a toll free hotline for identifying community resources
- Support Services to promote independence with regard to transportation, home care, legal aid, case management, and adult day care
- Nutrition Programs including congregate and home delivered meals
- National Family Caregiver Support Program to provide respite services, education, training, and, counseling to seniors providing kinship care, and to the caregivers of seniors
- Health Promotion providing educational services, counseling and consultation
- Aging and Disability Resource Centers to facilitate the dissemination of information on available resources
- The Older American Community Service Employment Act (OAA Title V) which works with the Department of Labor to provide employment opportunities for seniors
- Grants to Tribal Organizations
- The Long-term Care Ombudsman Program
- Elder Abuse, neglect, and exploitation public education services

These programs and agencies exist in our state and are managed and supported through various state entities with the objective of being accountable to the intent of the Act while responding to changes in the Act and providing local control and support for the needs of the citizens of our state.

One of the programs that has been recently strengthened with federal legislation is the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program. The Washington State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program ensures that people have the best quality of life possible while living in a long-term care facility.

People who live in long-term care facilities have basic citizen rights, and, they have additional rights. Federal law addresses quality of care and quality of life for those living in long-term care facilities. This quality of care and life has to do with broad categories such as Communication, Choice, Decision-making and Participation.

Helping folks with their choices and rights while living in a long-term care facility is accomplished through local Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program offices. The local office for Grays Harbor County and Pacific

County is located in the Aberdeen Olympic Area Agency on Aging. Amber Garrotte is the area coordinator.

Amber is not able to attend to all of the calls. No, she cannot and not even close to helping everyone that calls. She depends on a cadre of trained and certified volunteers. Volunteers, meaning people. Fellow human beings who want to help folks who cannot help themselves and who have no place to turn for help.

And help they need. Some common issues that occur on regular bases in long-term care facilities include; the facility failing to take care planning seriously, disregarding resident preferences, failing to provide necessary services, improper use of physical restraints, and the list goes on. The list of issues affecting folks in long-term care facilities where an interventional support is needed is lengthy and is not limited to what I have listed here. Many folks have shared with me over the past many years, "some bad stuff can happen to ourselves and loved ones in long term-care facilities." These bad things won't be corrected without an intervention. You can find this interventional support from your local Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program.

You need to call though in order to access the support. For Grays Harbor County and Pacific County support, call Amber Garrotte at 360-538-0060 or 800-801 -0060. For other counties call the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman office at 800-562-6028 to be connected to your county office.

For those of you who are reading this wondering why there needs to be a Long-Term Care Ombudsman program mandated by the Federal government and run by the states, I simply say that stuff happens and without laws and "oversight" things at long-term care facilities will continue to happen. Volunteer to make a difference. Be a trained and certified volunteer ombudsman where you can visit with residents, take and resolve complaints, and advocate for residents. Each of you that volunteer will receive extensive training and support so that you can provide accurate and helpful support for the residents living in long-term care facilities. Call, talk with Amber about volunteering. Better yet, make a commitment to make a difference knowing that making a difference takes work and a commitment of time and energy. Know also that you can make a difference in a human's life by volunteering.

Contact Us

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 www.willapacommunitynetwork.weebly.com

 www.facebook.com/WillapaCommunityNetwork