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Assisted Living Advisory Council Annual Report

The Legislature established the Assisted Living Advisory Council under Chapter 19D, Section 17 of Massachusetts General Laws, to advise the Secretary of the Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs about matters relating to certification regulations guiding Assisted Living Residences in the Commonwealth. Assisted Living Residence certification regulations were last reviewed and updated in 2014/2015.

Membership

The Assisted Living Advisory Council consists of six members, appointed to serve for one year. The Council includes the Secretary of Health and Human Services or designee, and the Undersecretary of Housing and Community Development or designee. The Executive Office of Elder Affairs Secretary or designee chairs the Council.

2014 /2015 Members:

- Secretary Ann L. Hartstein, Chair
- Undersecretary Aaron Gornstein, the Department of Housing and Community Development
- Duamarius Stukes, Designee of the Secretary of the Executive Office of Health and Human Services
- Elana Margolis, Associate Director, Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Boston
- Emily Meyer, President of Massachusetts Assisted Living Facilities Association – MASS-ALFA
- Dorothy Vitale, Executive Director, Norwood Senior Center (retired in October)
- Peggy Munro, MA Association of Older Americans
- Michael J. Poissant, Board of Directors, Community Visiting Nurse
- May Shields, CEO, HEARTH, Inc.

Throughout 2014, Assisted Living Council members were actively engaged in discussing proposed ALR Certification Regulation changes, offering constructive suggestions relating to the regulations and the Assisted Living Residence website. EOEa is grateful to them for their time, energy, dedication and commitment.

Review of Past Year

The Assisted Living Advisory Council, established in 2014, met for the first time on [March 11, 2014](#). Representatives from the Secretary of State's office administered the oath of office to those members who had yet to be sworn in. Patricia Marchetti, EOEa ALR Certification Unit specialist, provided a power point overview of Massachusetts's Assisted Living Residences and requirements. Secretary Hartstein reviewed the chapter and section of MGL relating to the Advisory Council's role and responsibility. Siobhan Coyle, EOEa Deputy Legal Counsel reviewed the public promulgation process for regulations.

The ALAC reconvened on [April 1, 2014](#), to discuss and vote (unanimously) on a meeting schedule and to review the proposed Assisted Living Certification Regulation changes. The ALAC agreed to meet on [April 22, 2014](#) with specific recommendations and feedback to the proposed changes.

The [April 22, 2014](#) meeting included presentations and discussion of the priority certification regulations including controlled substances, medication management on Special Care Units, Staff Levels, Reportable Events and Incidents, Physical Structure, Emergency Disaster Preparedness, and Staff Training.

At the regularly scheduled quarterly ALAC meeting on [June 24, 2014](#), there was a presentation of the ALR quarterly statistics, and suggestions regarding separate reports for ALRs by Independent and Memory Care units. Council members also suggested looking at trends in incident reporting and complaints recorded by the ombudsmen. The Secretary solicited agenda items for future meetings.

The [September 23, 2014 meeting](#) included a discussion of Resident Aggregate Data information as well as a discussion about incident reporting. EOEa undertook to review data from other states. There was a presentation highlighting the Assisted Living section of the [mass.gov/elders](#) website. As a result of that discussion, the latest two Annual Aggregate Data Reports are now posted on the website.

At the [December 9, 2014](#) meeting, Secretary Hartstein distributed the proposed ALR Certification Regulation changes and announced that the required public hearing would be held on December 15, 2014. Members received copies of the template for the ALAC Annual Report.

Coming Year

At the ALAC's first 2015 meeting, EOEA General Counsel, Matthew Casey will provide an update of the ALR Certification Regulation promulgation and implementation and answer questions.

Meeting Dates for 2015 (approved by the ALAC)

March 24
June 23
September 22
December 15

Closing

The Executive Office of Elder Affairs is grateful to the Legislature for its on-going interest in the Assisted Living Residence Certification Regulations and for creating the Assisted Living Advisory Council. With the unprecedented growth in the older population, and the increasing number of Assisted Living Residences, the ALAC will continue to serve a vital function in working with the EOEA Secretary in assuring the safety and security of seniors who choose to live in their own apartments supported by services of their choice.