



OUTLINE FOR RESIDENTS RIGHTS WEEK 2009

HEAR OUR VOICE **RESIDENTS OF LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES** **SPEAK OUT ABOUT RESIDENTS' RIGHTS**

Residents' Rights Week is designated by NCCNHR, The National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care and is celebrated the first full week in October each year to honor residents living in all long-term care facilities, including nursing homes, sub acute units, assisted living, board and care, and retirement communities. It is a time for celebration and recognition offering an opportunity for every facility to focus on and celebrate awareness of dignity, respect and the value of each individual resident.

The 2009 theme is ***Hear Our Voice – Residents' of Long-Term Care Facilities Speak Out About Residents' Rights***. This theme was selected to call attention to the fact that residents of long-term care facilities have a voice; and that voice should be part of decision making in long-term care facilities.

Included in the 2009 Residents' Rights Week Informational Packet:

Introduction:

- History and Overview

Activity Suggestions:

- Host an area-wide/regional resident or family council meeting
- Set up a Town Hall meeting
- Host an Open House at Ombudsman Program's agency offices
- Set up a display in a local shopping center

Sample In-Service Training Programs :

- Residents' Rights
- Supporting Family Council Development

Promotional Materials:

- Sample Ombudsman Program Newsletter Article
- Sample Letter to the Editor

- Sample Press Release
- Residents' Rights Week Proclamation – Governor
- Residents' Rights Week Proclamation – Mayor

Resources and Acknowledgements:

- Starting a Residents' Council
- Sample Residents' Council Bylaws
- Residents' Council Rights
- Tips for Making Meetings Meaningful
- Family Council Success Information Sheet
- Promoting Participation in Family Councils
- Key Components of a Family Council
- 2009 Advisory Committee

The Residents' Voice:

Last year, NCCNHR launched a new feature of Residents' Rights Week called, *The Residents' Voice*. It is designed as a forum for residents to express themselves about Residents' Rights.

Residents are encouraged to think about and respond to the following questions:

1. What does it mean to you when someone listens to your opinion or asks for your advice?
2. Why are Residents' Rights important and what would you like staff members to know about Residents rights?
3. How are residents involved in decision-making at your facility?

NCCNHR encourages residents to share their thoughts and responses to the above questions by sending us poems, essays, or stories; through art of any kind; or with short videos/recordings.

NCCNHR will post resident submissions on our website. All submissions are due by August 20, 2009.

**** Note – Residents should review the submission criteria and include release forms with any photos or recordings (video or audio).**