

Office of Long-Term Care Ombudsman Relocated

To ensure that older Iowans are continuously protected, Governor Culver has issued an Executive Order to move the Office of the Long-Term Care (LTC) Ombudsman out of the Department on Aging.

The LTC Ombudsman program began as an innovative pilot project established in 1972 by the federal government. The program was soon made permanent, and by 1978 the Older Americans Act mandated a State LTC Ombudsman Office in each state. In 1999, the Iowa office only had one ombudsman for the entire state; currently there are nine, eight regional and one statewide.

The federal Older Americans Act requires the LTC Ombudsman to provide independent analysis and input on federal, state, and local regulations and laws related to the health, safety, welfare, and rights of residents at long-term care facilities. In addition, as advocates, ombudsmen investigate and work to resolve concerns brought forward by, or on behalf of, people who live in long-term care facilities. Ombudsmen promote self-advocacy through support, training, and education.

DIA Director

The current Director of the Department on Aging, John McCalley, recently resigned. Governor Culver named former State Representative Ro Foege, of Mt. Vernon, as the interim director until a permanent replacement is appointed.