

# Illinois Long-Term Care Council Annual Report FY2025

State of Illinois  
JB Pritzker, Governor

Illinois Department on Aging  
Mary Killough, Director

July 2025

## **The Authority and Purpose of the Illinois Long Term Care Council**

The Illinois Long Term Care Council (Council) was created in August 2003 by Public Act 93-0498, which added Section 4.04a of the Illinois Act on the Aging (Act) (20 ILCS 105/4.04a).

The purpose of the Council is to ensure high quality of care for persons aged 60 or older who need long-term care in the continuum of care – from home care to nursing home care. The Council provides a forum for making recommendations on systemic issues affecting the continuum of long-term care, and the efficacy of the State Long Term Care Ombudsman Program.

The Council makes recommendations concerning persons who need services in the continuum of long-term care. This includes persons living in facilities licensed or regulated under the:

- (1) Nursing Home Care Act: Skilled Nursing and Intermediate Care Facilities Code, Intermediate Care for Persons with Developmental Disabilities Code, Sheltered Care Facilities Code, and Illinois Veterans Homes Code
- (2) Assisted Living and Shared Housing Establishment Code
- (3) Community services including Supportive Living Facilities, regulated under the Illinois Department of Health Care and Family Services through a federal waiver (89 Ill. Adm. Code Part 146), Adult Day Care and any other type of long-term care provided in a home or other environment

## **Council Mandates**

Mandate I. Make recommendations and comment on issues pertaining to long-term care and the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program to the Illinois Department on Aging (Department).

Mandate II. Advise the Department of Public Health and the Department on Aging matters pertaining to the quality of life and quality of care in the continuum of long-term care.

Mandate III. Evaluate, comment on reports regarding, and make recommendations on the quality of life and quality of care in long-term care facilities and on the duties and responsibilities of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program.

Mandate IV. Provide an opportunity for public input at each scheduled meeting.

## **Legislative Updates from the Office of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman**

Listed below are the legislative initiatives proposed by the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program which were passed by both chambers during the 104<sup>th</sup> General Assembly.

HB1287 Amends the Assisted Living and Shared Housing Act, the Nursing Home Care Act, the MC/DD Act, the ID/DD Community Care Act, and the Illinois Public Aid Code. Provides that the administrator of a facility or establishment under any of those Acts shall ensure that the facility or establishment has an automated external defibrillator and policies and procedures for the rendering of automated external defibrillation in the facility or establishment. The final version of this bill, which passed both chambers, was amended to only impact Nursing Home Care Act.

HB1597 Amends the Nursing Home Care Act and the Assisted Living and Shared Housing Act. These changes would strengthen the rights of residents in all nursing homes as well as assisted living and shared housing establishments by aligning transfer and discharge language with federal regulations. This bill passed both chambers.

**New Member Recruitment**

Over the last several years, the Council lost members due to resignations, term limitations, and the lingering impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Rebuilding the membership continues to be an ongoing focus. The Department will continue to work on securing new members to ensure the Council is comprised of the diverse background envisioned by the Act.

**2025 Council Goals On-Going**

The Council discussed several goals for the year and developed a survey to rank the goals in order of priority. We are still working through these goals with the Council. During the 2025 reporting year, we had a presentation about the training requirements for the Certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs). We are planning on making additional recommendations to the surveying agency about components that they should consider including in the training to become a CNA. Th goals in their order of priority are listed below:

1. Pursue required training for CNA’s focusing on compassion and empathy towards long-term care residents and the aging population
2. Advocate for person-centered care in long-term care facilities
3. Discuss and propose legislative solutions from problems identified in long-term care facilities

**Long-term Care Council Members**

Category	Name	Organization	1st Term	2nd term
Current or former resident of LTC facility or family member (minimum of 3)	Julie Preston	Family member	4 year – 7/16-7/20	7/20-7/24
	Margie Logman	Former Resident	4 year – 12/22-11/26	
	Bruce Carmona	Former Resident	4 year – 9/21-8/25	
Current or former long-term care facility resident council or family council member (minimum of 2)	Melinda McDonald	Resident	4 year – 1/20-12/24	1/24-12/28
	Ebony Payne	Resident	4 year – 6/23-5/27	
	Scott Mitchell	Resident	4 year – 5/23-4/27	
Organizations consisting of long-term care facilities (minimum of 4)	Kim Stoerger	Illinois Healthcare Association	4 year – 1/20-12/24	1/24-12/28
	Ashley Snavely	Illinois Healthcare Association	4 year – 12/22-11/26	
	Karin Zosel	Affordable Assistive Living Coalition	4 year – 9/20-8/24	9/24-8/28
Long-term Care facility employee	Vacant			

representative (minimum of 1)				
Membership-based senior/consumer organizations (minimum of 2)	Jennifer Belkov	Alzheimer's Association	4 year - 3/22-2/26	
	Casey Bailey	Molina Health Case Manager	4 year - 9/21-8/25	
	Marsha Johnson	Illinois Council of Case Coordination Units	4 year - 1/14-12/18	1/19-12/21
	Lori Hendren	AARP	4 year - 4/15 - 3/19	4/19-3/23
	Stacey Aschemann	Equip for Equality	4 year - 3/21-2/25	3/25-2/29
State Agency Representatives (non- voting)	Mary Killough	Illinois Department on Aging Director		
	Maria Ullman	Secretary of State		
	Sheila Baker	Illinois Department of Public Health		
	Molly Chapman	Division of Rehabilitation Services		
	Anthony Vaughn	Veteran's Affairs		
	Janene Brickey	HFS		
	Teresa Park	Illinois Guardianship and Advocacy Commission		
	Angela Simmons	Veterans Homes		
	Cathy Barbour	Medicaid Fraud Unit		
	Ali Johnson	Department of Human Service		
	Vacant	DHS, Div. of Developmental Disabilities		
Office of the State LTC Ombudsman (State Ombudsman: voting member)	Kelly Richards	Illinois Department on Aging		
	Lee Moriarty	Illinois Department on Aging		
	Stephen Maxwell	Illinois Department on Aging		
	Jessica Belsly	Illinois Department on Aging		
	Farrah Borders	Illinois Department on Aging		

**For additional copies, for further information, or to submit comments and questions about this report, please contact:**

Name: Farrah Borders  
Address: One Natural Resources Way Springfield, IL 62702  
Email: Farrah.Borders@illinois.gov  
Telephone number: 217.785.3379