

Amid the tremendous challenges and changes for the aging services profession, our work becomes even more important. We are committed to inspire our members with valuable education, resources, and to advocate on your behalf for the right public policy for the right reason. 2016 had its share of challenges, but in the midst of it all, there were some great successes. Our promise remains: to inspire, serve and advocate for mission-driven, not-for-profit providers. Working together in 2016, we accomplished the following for aging services.

Inspire.

- Representing the not-for-profit sector for 21 years.
- The LeadingAge OK 2016 Annual Conference offered 11 sessions which inspired 650+ provider attendees.
- LeadingAge OK and Mary Brinkley were the recipient of the first inaugural Inspire Award to recognize the work of the association on behalf of the elderly and disabled.
- Conducted 27 educational programs attended by over 2,000 individuals providing 126 hours of CEUs for providers across the continuum of care, offering a registration discount for all members.
- Conducted seminars on timely topics such as MDS changes and Requirements of Participation for nursing homes.
- Organized a two-day deep dive to address workforce challenges.
- Offered two full-day sessions of education for the Activities for Independent Living/Wellness network to highlight the importance of wellness initiatives.
- Conducted three Activity and Social Services trainings, one of our most valuable educational programs that directly impacts quality of life.
- Provided networking opportunities for Executive Directors, Human Resources, Senior Housing, Adult Day Health Services, Activity Directors, and Culture Change.
- Shared timely Housing updates on HUD and Fair Housing issues.
- Conducted Assisted Living provider training including important regulatory updates.

Serve.

- Received a \$353,000 CMS, OSDH grant to bring the Music & Memory program to 2,000 nursing home residents.
- LeadingAge OK is a partner in the Healthy Aging Living Longer Better initiative.
- Website providing a directory and consumer information to share the importance of the not-for-profit difference.
- Brought in key resources to educate members on the IGT/UPL program.
- Education survey conducted to ensure that providers' needs are addressed in our educational curriculum.
- Provided the LeadingAge Insights reports: 5-Star Analysis, Hospital Readmission, and other quality metrics to drive quality improvement.
- At no additional charge, provided a comprehensive web-based benefits and compensation survey for all members.
- Value First program offers resources to bring savings to our members in the areas of food, medical, janitorial, and other areas determined by no cost, no obligation cost studies.
- Addressed member inquires on a host of topics relating to regulatory compliance, operations, clinical issues, and other provider concerns.
- Provided CMS and state regulatory updates and consultation on clinical and compliance.
- Regular meetings with OSDH and OHCA on regulatory, survey, and funding issues.
- Participation in events such as Senior Day at the Capitol to increase awareness of the not-for-profit sector of aging services.

Advocate.

- Legislative updates comprised of issues in the legislative session affecting the long term care profession.
- Tracking of 300+ bills and monitoring their status and impact for our member communities.
- Successfully defeated legislation that would have eliminated the property tax exemption for our not-for-profit member communities.
- Closely monitor the budget process and advocate for equitable funding for all programs/services.
- LeadingAge OK organized grassroots advocacy efforts with providers, families, and stakeholders in long term care.
- Monitor the implementation of HB 1566 to establish a Medicaid managed care program for the Aged, Blind, and Disabled, attending meetings in the transition to this program, from the legislation to the RFP process.
- Educated elected officials and agency leadership on the importance of provider services and that adequate funding of programs is critical in order to maintain quality services.
- Conducted community outreach presentations on the "not-for-profit" difference.
- Represented the not-for-profit sector at meetings such as the Long Term Care Facility Advisory Board, the State Council on Aging, Focus on Excellence Advisory Committee, Medicaid Advisory Committee, Oklahoma Health Care Authority, Oklahoma State Board of Health, Oklahoma State Board of Examiners for Long Term Care Administrators and other entities to access the latest updates, regulatory issues and funding concerns.