

# 2021 LeadingAge Oklahoma Accomplishments



In 2021, COVID continued to challenge the long term care profession. LeadingAge OK has been here for you and will continue to support you on this arduous journey that exemplified the commitment of our members.

## Our Collective Voice

- ❖ Outreach to state agencies, legislators, and key constituencies to share the many challenges for long term care professionals in a COVID-19 environment.
- ❖ Advocacy for funding for the many provider needs across the continuum of care related to the expenses attributed to COVID.
- ❖ An expanded dimension of membership became our public relations for providers. From the many news stories in print, television interviews, and Op-Eds, we told the story of the impact of COVID-19 and the dedication of the long term care profession to meet this challenge with unrelenting commitment day after day and month after month.
- ❖ Due to COVID-19, the legislative session was abbreviated with the budget and a limited number of bills being passed, however our advocacy for emergency funding, allocation of relief funds, and sustainability of long term care services has continued.
- ❖ After years of effort, HB 1794, the Alzheimer's Dementia and Other Forms of Dementia Bill was signed into law. This will bring much needed consumer protection and provider accountability for dementia care in Oklahoma.

## Education

- ❖ Adapted our annual conference to a virtual platform that offered over 50 sessions and 20 hrs. CEUs over 6 days to bring a wealth of information to educate and inspire long term care professionals.
- ❖ Our Activity/Social Services Director training, which has maintained recognition as an outstanding program, continued, enabling individuals to complete the program in order to serve in this important role.
- ❖ Offered education via webinars to bring important updates and operational guidance to providers, for a total of 53 hours of CEU credit online and in person.
- ❖ Planning is underway for our in-person conference experience in March 2022: Twelve full-day tracks, 12 hrs. CEU credit, and a not-to-be-missed Solutions Center Exhibit Hall.

## Tools and Resources

- ❖ Provided weekly COVID updates that included state, CMS, CDC, OSHA, HUD and all other relevant updates as a comprehensive resource for all members.
- ❖ Pay for Performance Advisory Committee participation to monitor and advance this program for Medicaid nursing homes.
- ❖ Assisted members with resources for PPE, policies, staffing, and even moral support in the midst of the COVID-19 crisis.
- ❖ CMS 5-Star reports, sent to members quarterly, are an invaluable resource to drive quality improvement.
- ❖ Member video conferences were scheduled to share experiences and provide assistance.
- ❖ Participated in special agency meetings as a resource in addressing the challenges in the long term care profession.

## Workforce

- ❖ LeadingAge OK took the lead and is now part of a coalition requesting substantial ARPA funds for an unprecedented investment in workforce development.
- ❖ Provided a detailed Compensation and Benefits survey to assist members with critical human resources information.
- ❖ Offered the Culture-Driven Recruitment and Retention webinar series by a nationally recognized expert to provide direction on staffing challenges.

## Stronger Together

- ❖ LeadingAge Oklahoma represented providers on funding, regulatory and operational issues to advocate for the profession.
- ❖ Through COVID-19, many members have realized first-hand the value of community, personally experiencing what it means to have a resource of providers to call on and learn from, a true support network.
- ❖ Association reserves are at 12 months of operating expenses, within the 9-12 month target. Dues for all categories are 33% of the budget, well below the national standard of 40-60%.