



Indiana State  
Department of Health

# LONG TERM CARE NEWSLETTER

ISDH Long Term Care  
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## Leadership Conference

The Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) invites you to attend the Indiana Long Term Care Leadership Conference, October 22, 2015, in Indianapolis. Registration information will be coming soon.



## Save the Date

### Indiana Healthcare Leadership Conference Expressive Arts

Date: **Thursday, October 22, 2015**

Time: **8:30 am**

Location: **Indiana Convention Center**

**Who Should Attend:** Every licensed comprehensive care facility should send two persons. **You should consider sending your activity director to this conference.** Representatives from long term care provider organizations and interest groups are also invited to attend. All ISDH long term care surveyors will attend.

Check [www.in.gov/isdh/23260.htm](http://www.in.gov/isdh/23260.htm) for further details when they become available and for registration information.

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## Ombudsman Acting Director

Karen Gardner Gilliland has been appointed Acting Director of the State Long Term Care Ombudsman Program. Karen has been with the Division of Aging for eight years and most recently served as Deputy Director for Policy and Planning. As a gerontologist, she has 40 years in services for the older adults, having served as an Area Agency on Aging Director in Muncie, President/CEO of a joint venture with Parkview and Lutheran Hospitals and the Visiting Nurse Services and Hospice of Fort Wayne, and as LTC Program Development Director for Mercy Health System in Cincinnati. In May of 2015, Karen was awarded the "Advocate of the Year" award by the Indiana Association of Home and Hospice Care for client advocacy.

The Ombudsman program serves to advocate for the needs of long term care residents by investigating and resolving their problems and complaints. The program provides information and education on long term care services, programs and advocacy on regulations and policies affecting long term care. Karen will oversee twenty-two full and part time Ombudsman located throughout the state.

## CDC - Antibiotic Stewardship for Nursing Homes

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) advise all nursing homes to improve antibiotic prescribing practices and reduce their inappropriate use to protect resident from the consequences of antibiotic-resistant infections, such as *C. difficile*. The CDC released a new resource, [Core Elements of Antibiotic Stewardship for Nursing Homes](#), as a guide. The core elements for nursing homes are designed to optimize treatment of infections while reducing adverse events associated with antibiotic usage.

Additional fact sheets on antibiotic use in nursing home have been developed:

[Creating a Culture to Improve Antibiotic Use in Nursing Homes](#) - (administrators)

[Leading Antibiotic Stewardship in Nursing Homes](#) - (medical leaders)

[What You Need to Know About Antibiotics in a Nursing Home](#) - (consumers)

[What to Ask Your Healthcare Provider About Antibiotics](#) - (consumers)

[Top 10 Infection Prevention Questions to Ask a Nursing Home's Leaders](#) - (consumers)

[Antibiotic Stewardship in Nursing Homes](#) - (all audiences)

## Rabies and Bats Information

In July, an Indiana healthcare facility discovered a dead bat in a resident's room. In a recent conference call, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) presented information regarding bats and their association with rabies. The CDC emphasized the importance of proper care, treatment, and follow up regarding the detection of bats in a facility. Data suggest that transmission of the rabies virus can occur from bats. Rabies post-exposure prophylaxis is recommended for any bite, scratch, or mucous membrane exposure from a bat. Post-exposure prophylaxis should be considered for all individuals who might be unaware or unsure if a bite, scratch, or mucous membrane exposure occurred. Bats (alive or dead) should be handled with caution. In actual or potential cases of human exposure involving a bat, if possible the bat should be safely collected and submitted for rabies testing. If the rabies testing results are negative, no post-exposure prophylaxis treatment is needed.

Additional information is available below:

[Bats](#)

[Coming in Contact with Bats](#)

[How to Capture a Bat](#)

## Falls Prevention Awareness Day - September 23, 2015

September 23, the first day of fall, was the eighth annual [Falls Prevention Awareness Day \(FPAD\)](#). The theme was, "*Take a Stand to Prevent Falls*". The [Falls Free@ Coalition](#) and [National Council on Aging \(NCOA\)](#) have resources available to organizations to promote fall prevention awareness. This is a good time to raise awareness about fall prevention. Information and strategies related to physical mobility, medication management and environmental safety is available in [The Falls Free@: 2015 National Falls Prevention Action Plan](#).