



Department of
Aging

Ted Strickland, Governor
Barbara E. Riley, Director

NOTICE

ODA will conduct a public hearing to obtain comments concerning ODA's proposed amendment of a rule regarding **program reviews of regional ombudsman programs**, as required by section 119.03 of the Revised Code. ODA will conduct the hearing on **Thursday, November 5, 2009** in Conference Room A of the Department's offices at 50 W. Broad Street, 9th floor; Columbus, OH 43215. The hearing will begin at **11:30AM** and will continue until all parties in attendance at that time have had an opportunity to provide comment.

ODA is proposing to amend the rule so that the state long-term care ombudsman (SLTCO) may designate an entity as a regional long-term care ombudsman (RLTCO) program for a period of up to three years, which, in turn, allows for fewer reviews of the RLTCO programs. Currently, the rule only allows the SLTCO to designate an entity as a RLTCO program for a period of one year. ODA is also proposing to amend the rule so that the SLTCO has twenty days to notify the RLTCO and the area agency on aging (AAA) of the results of a program review. Currently, the rule requires the SLTCO to notify the RLTCO and AAA no more than fifteen days after the completion of a review.

Am. Sub. H. B. No. 1 reduced the funding for ODA's ombudsman programs from the previous biennium. This has led a reduction in staff, but not a reduction in the level of responsibilities. The changes proposed in this amended rule allow the staff of the Office of the SLTCO to focus their efforts on other ombudsman activities (e.g., investigations of incidents) by allowing them to conduct up to two-thirds fewer program reviews of the RLTCO programs and by providing them with a greater number of days to notify a RLTCO and AAA of the results of each program review.

ODA is proposing to amend this rule to:

- Change all references to the SLTCO's annual review of the RLTCO programs to references to references to the SLTCO's "regular program review" or "program review" of the RLTCO programs.
- Require the SLTCO to conduct a program review of a RLTCO program no less frequently than every three years instead of once per year.
- Delete "During the on-site visit" in paragraph (B)(3) of the rule.
- Replace "screenings" in paragraph (B)(3) of the rule with "screening forms."
- Add a new comma in paragraph (B)(4) of the rule.
- Allow the SLTCO, in paragraph (D)(1) of the rule, twenty days after the completion of a program review, not fifteen days after the completion of a program review, to notify the RLTCO and AAA of the results of the program review.

Written comments or requests for information concerning the proposed actions may be directed to Tom Simmons at the Department on or before the date of the hearing by writing to tsimmons@age.state.oh.us.

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