



**Department of Disabilities, Aging and
Independent Living
Commissioner's Office**
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Agency of Human Services

January 13, 2022

Sean Lonergan
State Long Term Care Ombudsman Program
Vermont Legal Aid
264 North Winooski Avenue
Burlington, VT 05401

Dear Mr. Lonergan,

Pursuant to 33 V.S.A. §7503(10), on or before January 15 of each year the Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman must “[s]ubmit to the General Assembly and the Governor a report on complaints by individuals receiving long-term care, conditions in long-term care facilities, and the quality of long-term care and recommendations to address identified problems.” 33 V.S.A. §7509 provides that the Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living (“Department”) shall prohibit any Ombudsman, either paid or volunteer, Vermont Legal Aid staff and board, or any immediate family member of any Ombudsman, or Vermont Legal Aid staff and board, from having any interest in a long-term care facility or provider of long- term care which creates an organizational or individual conflict of interest in carrying out the Ombudsman’s responsibilities and directs the Department’s Commissioner to establish a committee of no fewer than five persons, who represent the interests of individuals receiving long-term care and who are not State employees, to assure that the Ombudsman is able to carry out all prescribed duties in the Older Americans Act and in state statute without a conflict of interest.

The Department utilizes the DAIL Advisory Board (“Board”) as the aforementioned committee. During its regularly scheduled monthly meeting on January 13, 2022, a subcommittee reported that assurances were received from you, the State Long Term Care Ombudsman, that to the best of your knowledge no Vermont Legal Aid staff, board, volunteers or their immediate family members have any interest in a long-term care facility or provider of long-term care which creates an individual or organizational conflict of interest in carrying out the Ombudsman’s responsibilities. By a unanimous vote the committee determined that the Ombudsman is able to carry out all prescribed duties without a conflict of interest, and the committee recommended that the Commissioner convey its assessment to both the General Assembly and the Governor as required by statute. This writing serves that purpose and is hereby submitted as an appendix to the Ombudsman’s annual report, as required by 33 V.S.A. §7509(b).

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Monica White".

Monica White
DAIL Commissioner

Cc: Jeanne Hutchins, Chair DAIL Advisory Board
Conor O'Dea, State Unit on Aging, DAIL