



WHO WILL CARE FOR NEBRASKA SENIORS?

NURSING HOME CLOSURES

NEBRASKA'S "CARE DESERTS"

The press conference will communicate the importance of all Nebraskans having access to care in a nursing home or assisted living facility, when and where they need it (right care, right time, right place); illustrate rural geographic "care deserts" in Nebraska; the challenges the situation brings to quality of life for nursing home and assisted living facility residents, residents' family members, and staff; and how the long-term care profession is addressing workforce challenges.

Speakers:

- **Jalene Carpenter**, President and CEO, Nebraska Nursing Facility Association and Nebraska Assisted Living Association
- **Belinda Coble**, RN, Brookestone View, Broken Bow
- **Jeanne Gentry**, former Brookestone View resident
- **Senator Myron Dorn**, District 30

NEBRASKANS' ACCESS TO CARE in nursing homes and assisted living communities is becoming increasingly limited due to:

- **A lack of adequate funding for services provided**
 - Nursing Homes – Based on cost reports, the gap between Medicaid payment and cost of nursing home care is at least \$49 per person per day.
 - Assisted Living Facilities – Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services's own study agrees there's a gap between Medicaid payment and cost of care. Two years ago, when the study was done, it would have taken a 17% increase to fill the gap.
- **A depleted workforce**
 - Nursing homes faced staffing challenges prior to COVID-19 and the pandemic only exacerbated workforce shortages.
 - 9 Nebraska counties have no RNs and 12 have no LPNs working in them.
 - RNs, nursing assistants, and LPNs make up 3 of the 5 most advertised jobs in Nebraska. RNs are, by far, the most advertised job. Between now and September, nursing assistants surpassed retail salespersons, and LPNs surpassed both food workers and teaching assistants.

For additional questions or resources, contact Nebraska Health Care Association at nhca@nehca.org or 402-435-3551.