

Dignity for the Aged Overview



Sam Kukich
Director



Our mission is to provide a Voice by advocating, educating supporting and promoting Dignity for residents in Long Term Care Facilities.

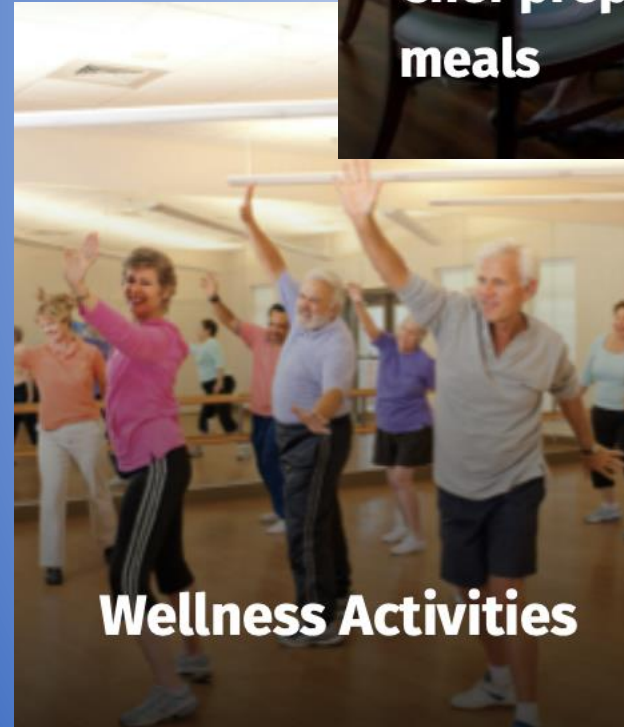


**What happens when you
need a Nursing Home?**

it's important to
Know Before You Go!



Great Advertising and Activities!



How you look Before



- No Feeding
- No Changing
- No Basic Hygiene
- No Toileting
- No Socializing
- Numerous Falls
- Loss of Hearing Aids
- Theft

For **\$10,000** a month self pay
(not Medicaid)



How you look After

And there were no responses to resident's concerns!

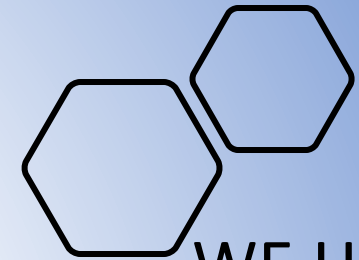
Sad Truth – Regulations and Laws are Ignored!

U. S. Nursing Home Reform Law of 1987

This Federal law applying to nursing homes requires that each nursing home

“care for its residents in such a manner and in such an environment as will promote maintenance or enhancement of the quality of life of each resident.”

It requires an emphasis on **Dignity, Choice** and **Self-determination** for residents.



WE HAVE A
NATIONAL CRISIS
IN
POOR CARE
For the Elderly
Residing in
ASSISTED LIVING
and **NURSING**
HOME FACILITIES
Virginia places
38th

Dignity Organization

Residents and Family members don't know where to seek assistance.

So, we developed a Website: **Dignityfortheaged.org** and a **Chapter for each of 50 states** (1500 members nationwide.)

- How to file a complaint?
- How to contact your congressman?
- What are the Nursing Home Rights for Residents?
- What is an Ombudsman?
- How does Medicare / Medicaid work?

How can I tell which Nursing Home is a good one?

141 of the 287 Nursing Homes in Va are on the Nursing Home Abuse Watch List!

Virginia Watchlist Facilities					
Facility Name	City/State	County	Address	Zip	
AUGUSTA NURSING & REHAB CENTER	Fishersville, VA	Augusta	83 Crossroads Lane	22939	CLICK FOR MORE
SEVEN HILLS REHABILITATION AND NURSING	Lynchburg, VA	Lynchburg City	2081 Langhorne Road	24501	CLICK FOR MORE
HENRICO HEALTH & REHABILITATION CENTER	Highland Springs, VA	Henrico	561 North Airport Drive	23075	CLICK FOR MORE
WONDER CITY REHABILITATION AND NURSING CENTER	Hopewell, VA	Hopewell City	905 Cousins Avenue	23860	CLICK FOR MORE
BIRCHWOOD PARK REHABILITATION	Virginia Beach, VA	Virginia Beach City	340 Lynn Shores Drive	23452	CLICK FOR MORE
ABINGDON HEALTH CARE LLC	Abingdon, VA	Washington	15051 Harmony Hills Lane	24211	CLICK FOR MORE
ALBEMARLE HEALTH & REHABILITATION CENTER	Charlottesville, VA	Albemarle	1540 Founders Place	22902	CLICK FOR MORE
APPOMATTOX HEALTH & REHABILITATION CENTER	Appomattox, VA	Appomattox	235 Evergreen Ave	24522	CLICK FOR MORE
AUTUMN CARE OF ALTAVISTA	Altavista, VA	Campbell	1317 Lola Ave	24517	CLICK FOR MORE
AUTUMN CARE OF MADISON	Madison, VA	Madison	Number One Autumn Court	22727	CLICK FOR MORE

GET IMMEDIATE HELP

For Example:

Birchwood Park Rehabilitation and Nursing Facility

Special Focus Facilityⁱ

BIRCHWOOD PARK has been designated a Special Focus Facility because of a history of serious quality issues. Find out more on our page dedicated to [Special Focus Facilities](#).

Worst Nursing Home Ratingsⁱ

BIRCHWOOD PARK received the worst ratings for the following:



Worst Overall Rating (Current)

For the last 38 consecutive months - April, 2022 to September, 2025



Worst Overall Rating (History):

98 months total between October, 2015 and September, 2025



Worst Health Inspection Rating (Current)

For the last 67 consecutive months - June, 2019 to September, 2025



Worst Health Inspection Rating (History):

103 months total between March, 2015 and September, 2025



Worst Staffing Rating (History):

53 months total between July, 2018 and September, 2024



Worst RN Staffing Rating (History):

45 months total between January, 2014 and June, 2022

Source - These ratings are published monthly by CMS ([Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services](#))

History of Unsafe Staffingⁱ

Understaffing has a very human cost, not only to the dignity of nursing home residents but also to their basic safety and well-being. [Click here for signs and symptoms of understaffing.](#)

What is inadequate CNA Staffing?

Was <u>BIRCHWOOD PARK</u> staffed at Unsafe levels?:			
	Days staffed below 2.0 hours of CNA time for each resident per day	Average CNA care per resident per day	Average overall care per resident per day
2024	90.4% 331 days out of 366 days	1.79 hours January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024 (Below 2.0 hours is unsafe)	3.22 hours of overall care per resident per day (January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024)
2023	99.3% 273 days out of 275 days	1.66 hours April 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023 (Below 2.0 hours is unsafe)	3.06 hours of overall care per resident per day (April 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023)
2022	82.5% 301 days out of 365 days	1.75 hours January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022 (Below 2.0 hours is unsafe)	2.98 hours of overall care per resident per day (January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022)

Why do Staffing Levels Matter?

Why do staffing levels matter to BIRCHWOOD PARK residents?

98.5% of residents need assistance with toileting and/or incontinent care

94.7% of residents needed assistance transferring from bed and/or wheelchair

73.3% of residents confined to wheelchair and/or bed

58.0% of residents had dementia

Source - These ratings are published monthly by CMS ([Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services](#))

The Facts – No Accountability for Residents!

- Virginia ranks 38th out of 50, Has a grade of D
- 141/289 Nursing homes in VA are on the Nursing Home Abuse Watch List
- Private Equity Corporations are buying up Nursing Homes for Profits
- Regulations have little effect, filing a complaint does nothing
- When a facility is fined, the money goes to Civil Money Penalties Fund
- Residents are victims, no one helps them, so they die.



The Business Plan

**Residents &
Families Pay for
and expect Care**

**Facility Receives
Taxpayer Funded
Medicare &
Medicaid Money**

**No Matter the
standard of care**

**Problems with care
are covered up by
facility (hired by
owners) by
threatening
families**

**Increasing
Neglect, abuse,
and deaths
With no facility
liability.**

- **Intentional under-staffing (Profit over Care) and haphazard hiring is the reality!**
- **No Doctor on Site Daily**

We decided to do some Research to find out Why is this Happening?

**U.S. Centers for Medicare/Medicaid Serviced
(CMS in Washington)**

73 Whopping Pages of Org Charts

Laws, Rules, Regulations, Penalties...etc. ad nauseam = Medical Care Imperative

Owners/Operators/Government
Maximizing Profit at Expense of Care
(Heavy Expenditure on Lobbyists & Lawyers)
To Protect their **Profit** Interests.

The "**Medical Care Imperative**"
Does NOT "Trickle" Down to
The Nursing Staff/CNAs who
are **RESPONSIBLE** for patient care.



On-Going Intentional Understaffing
Untrained, No Background Checks for Staff
Laws, Rules, Regulation Requirements for
Care are not enforced resulting in:
CATASTROPHIC CARE!



Ever wonder where all the taxpayer's
money goes? Residents continue to
be abused, neglected and die!

MASSIVE INFRASTRUCTURE



Dignity for the Aged participated in Study 932

AVAILABILITY OF CLINICAL WORKFORCE FOR NURSING HOMES

REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

2020

- Provided documented information to support the facts that residents are being **neglected, abused and are dying due to lack of care due to understaffing.**

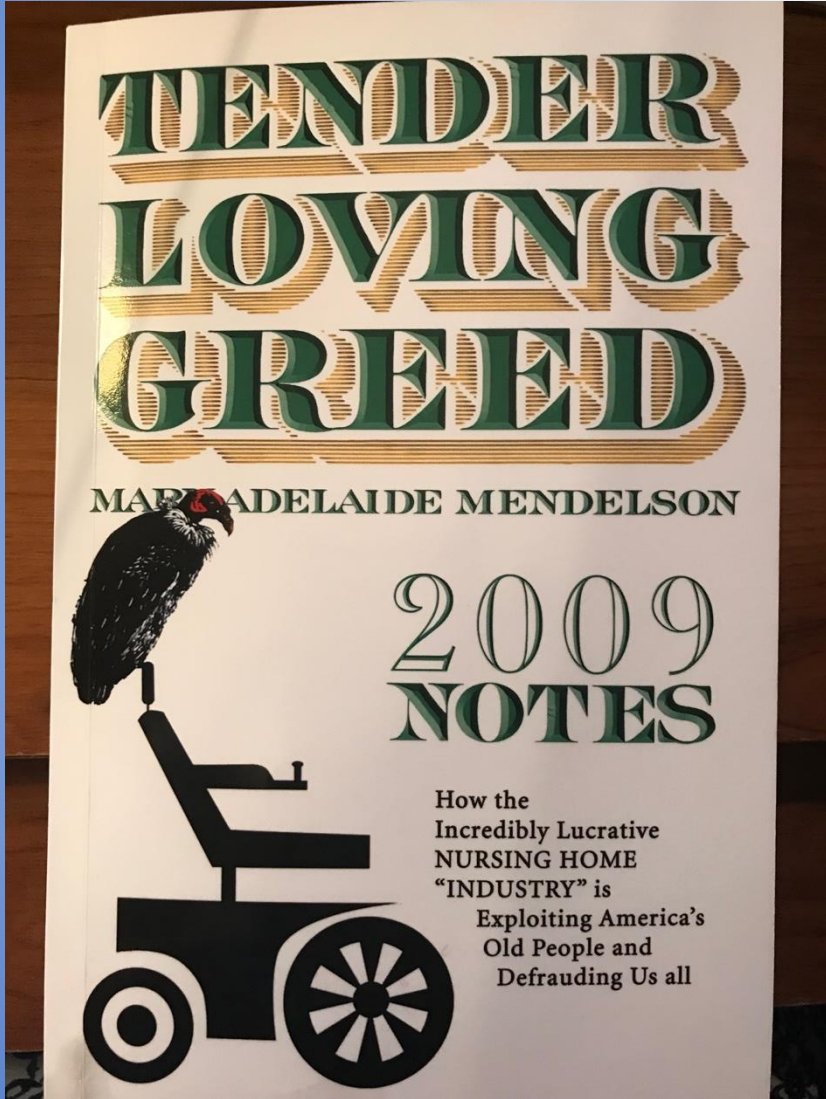
We presented proof that qualified CNAs were leaving the workforce due to **low salary, poor leadership, burn out and an inability to properly care for residents.**

There were **34 recommendations** made at the conclusion of this Work Group 932. Several of the recommendations suggested hiring the **deaf**, the **blind** and **felons** as well as lowering the standards to accommodate unqualified individuals. Our concerns were noted but ignored.

Our Findings begin with Study 932

- Residents need/deserve qualified health care staff
- Establishing ratios of 6 to 1 regardless of acuity improves the work environment and quality of care for residents.

Mary Adelaide Mendelson's Book



- Rampant Neglect and Abuse
- Profit Before Care System
- Government Failure and Corruption
- The Human Toll

Much of what she revealed is shocking and occurring in over Half of Virginia Nursing Homes.

Where do the Billions of Dollars Go?

Mr. Ernie Tosh

Founding Attorney at Bedsores.Law

A firm that focuses on nursing home abuse, neglect, and financial fraud in the long-term care industry.

Despite billions of dollars being funneled through related party companies each year, there appears to be **little to no scrutiny by the federal government on how this money is spent.**

Nursing homeowners and operators routinely pay their related parties **in excess of reported costs**, in some instances by nearly **1200%**.





The top Five Chain Companies contacted by Congressman James Clyburn requesting Companies to illuminate ownership/control structures affect decision-making.
No one responded.

Mr. Forrest Preston, Chairman and CEO of Life Care Centers of America

Mr. Hager, Chief executive Officer Genesis HealthCare

Mr. Barry Port, Chief Executive Officer, Ensign Group

Mr. Christ Bryson, CEO, Consulate Health Care

Mr. Jerry Roles, CEO, Sava Senior Care

The Honorable Seema Verma, Administrator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

Click here to review letters: <https://coronavirus-democrats.oversight.house.gov/news/letters/clyburn-launches-sweeping-investigation-widespread-coronavirus-deaths-nursing-homes>

No Accountability

- Dignity for the Aged called Congressman Clyburn's office to ascertain what the results of the Document Request provided. We were told, "**Nothing was done**".
- The documentation and information requested on June 30, 2020 from Congressman Clyburn would provide valuable information relating to Governor Youngkin's Executive Order 52 should it be completed.
- It is our recommendation that these Document Requests be completed to reveal the Chain-affiliated long-term care companies that tend to receive lower ratings in the Five-Star Quality Rating System, provide lower quality of care, and experience more safety deficiencies than non-profit facilities.

What We Learned – We Have a Fire

- 141 of 287 VA Nursing Homes are on the Abuse Watch List
- Increase in VA Complaints (730 to 1849) and High Priority Complaints (151 to 426) from 2024 to 2025 projections (VDH)
- VDH has no summary authority to correct Nursing Home infractions
- Inadequate healthcare staffing is directly linked to potential harm and actual harm of residents (OIG)
- Abuse citations doubled from 2013-2017, insufficient steps in CMS oversight to address abuse (GAO)
- Residents don't understand the "system" or their rights
- Rules and regulations are not being implemented or enforced
- Covid revealed lack of sufficient staffing, inadequate training, poor staff supervision, and lack of stable leadership
- Ombudsman program provides little more than information and mediation
- Nursing Homes are organized to make hidden profit ("Tender Loving Greed")

First Priority - Put Out the Fire



Mandate Ratio 6-1 of Residents to Healthcare Staff

Make Virginia a Leader in Change!

We don't need more inspection teams to tell us we are failing,

Nursing Homes have become a place to Die, let's use Executive Order 52 to revitalize nursing homes and bring this population of people back into society.

In the next 5 years 25% of the population will be over the age of 65. We must plan now for this increase in nursing home population to give them a quality of life instead of building more warehouses for them to die.



The students in our Institutions of higher learning can partner with members of the Greatest Generation to correct the current situation.

We Must Begin Now!



Our local Universities can help.

Christopher Newport University's Engagement Program

Nursing Home residents can be included into society by allowing students to get credit for service hours to help nonprofit organizations like Dignity for the Aged provide opportunities for quality-of-life activities by using student's areas of Study. For example:

- Psychology – Geriatric Perception
- Law - how to enforce the laws we have
- Art - colors that appeal to the elderly instead of gray walls
- Music – use the performing arts instead of TV
- Nutrition – analyze the nutritional foods they receive now – what are benefits versus the cost
- Agriculture – design a walking garden
- Communication – What encourages conversation

Questions?



Contact us at: Dignityfortheaged@gmail.com

**Facebook and our webpage:
Dignityfortheaged.org**