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**LOCAL OMBUDSMEN RECEIVE NATIONAL AGING AWARD**

(Traverse City) Local Long Term Care Ombudsmen from two northern Michigan Area Agencies on Aging, Region 10 in Traverse City and Region 9 in Alpena,are being awarded the *2014 National Area on Agencies on Aging Association (n4a) Aging Achievement Award,* for promoting innovative practices in long term care through **Best Practices of Northern Michigan**. The award will be presented during the n4a Annual Conference in Dallas, TX, July 12-16, 2014.

Local Ombudsmen, Nancy Turner, Region 10, and Sharon Greenhoe, Region 9, co-facilitate the Best Practices of Northern Michigan group. Recognition is for their efforts supporting culture change in long term care by hosting annual educational conferences reaching up to 200 direct caregivers each year, and for facilitating an additional twelve Learning Collaborative trainings for nursing home staff in partnership with the Pioneer Network, a national organization committed to transformation of the culture of long term care.

“This training has given us helpful tools to take back to the nursing home to continue teaching our staff that residents are individuals with individual needs.”

Both initiatives will be published in the 2014 n4a Best Practices Publication, and will be recognized during the n4a Aging Innovations & Achievement Awards Luncheon and at the General Session, where awards will be presented by the U.S. Administration for Community Living Administrator and Assistant Secretary for Aging, Kathy Greenlee.

Best Practices of Northern Michigan (BPNM), a committee co-facilitated by the local ombudsmen, was created 17 years ago to bring the nursing home culture change movement to northern Michigan. Over the past 16 years, Nancy Turner, BPNM co-founder, directed the conference planning, bringing innovative educators and new practices to the northern Michigan long term care community. Sharon Greenhoe joined the BPNM team four years ago.

Local Long Term Care Ombudsmen advocate for individuals receiving care in long term care settings through education, awareness of resident rights, assisting with complaint resolution and promoting best practices. Through advocacy the aim is to improve the quality of care and the quality of life experienced by persons in licensed long term care settings.

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