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October 12, 2018

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Aging and Community Services Educates Caregivers and Residents Regarding Rights

Carlisle PA – In recognition of Residents’ Rights Month, an annual event sponsored by the National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care (The Consumer Voice), Cumberland County’s Aging and Community Services office will be educating staff, residents and family members regarding residents’ rights.

The office will conduct nine seminars at long-term facilities throughout the county this month to discuss residents’ rights including the right to voice a grievance without retaliation, individual care plans, privacy and freedom with staff, family and residents. Aging and Community Services supports older adults, adults with disabilities and others who are at risk of losing their independence, to continue living in the community as long as possible.

“Resident Rights Month gives everyone involved in long-term care the opportunity, especially in regard to individual choice and care issues, to focus on resident-directed care and emphasize the self-determination, choice and quality of life of each resident,” said Sandy Gurreri, director of Cumberland County’s Aging and Community Service.

Nationwide, there are more than 1.6 million individuals living in 16,000 nursing homes, and 1 million individuals living in 50,000 board and personal care/assisted living facilities in the country. The Nursing Home Reform Law, passed in 1987, guarantees nursing home residents their individual rights, including but not limited to: individualized care, respect, dignity, the right to visitation, the right to privacy, the right to complain and the right to make independent choices.

“We want all residents to be aware of their rights so they may be empowered to live with dignity and self-determination,” said Robert C. Aims, administrator of Claremont Nursing and Rehabilitation Center.

Residents' Rights Month 2018’s theme “***Speak Up: Know Your Rights and How to Use Them,***” emphasizes the importance of residents being informed about their rights, being engaged partners in achieving quality care and quality of life, and feeling confident in speaking up about what is important to them. For more information on the long-term services available to Cumberland County residents, visit our website at www.ccpa.net.

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Cumberland County is the fastest growing county in the Commonwealth and offers the perfect mix of small town, suburban and rural living. Established in 1750, Cumberland County consistently maintains one of the lowest tax and unemployment rates in the State, while providing exceptional services for its more than 250,000 residents. More information on Cumberland County can be found at www.ccpa.net.