



**Advocacy Education Workgroup  
Conference Call  
MEETING NOTES  
3/23/2020**

<b>OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM REPRESENTATIVES</b>			
Marylin Kane, Chair	Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Marshall Kapp	Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Jane Spencer	Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bernadette Gernand	Present <input type="checkbox"/>
Joanna Emerson	Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Choice Edwards, Member at Large	Present <input type="checkbox"/>
M. Christina Clark	Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mike Phillips, East Region ROM	Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maria Torres	Present <input type="checkbox"/>	Betsy McAllister	Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**UPDATES/REPORTS**

**I. Welcome**

- a) The meeting was called to order at 3:02p
- b) Roll Call: see above
- c) Motion to approve Minutes of June 6, 2019 by Marshall Kapp, second by Joanna Emerson, and approved unanimously.

**II. Discussion Items**

- a) Membership: The floor was opened and Joanna Emerson nominated Jane Spencer, which was seconded by Marshall Kapp. Jane was not present yet. The vote was unanimous. Jane did sign on and accepted the nomination and election.
- b) Advocacy Issue: Is there an algorithm for infection control once detected such as C-diff or MRSA? The ALF Facility Administrator asked the Ombudsman since the ones she found were referenced for more medical environments. It was suggested she contact FALA as well as the AHCA or Public Health Dept.
- c) Advocacy Issue: In the absence of state guideline, a Facility has developed guidelines for incorporating medical marijuana into the POC. Is this legal? It is not legal if the Facility is accepting Federal monies (such as Medicaid). More info needed re type of Facility.
- d) Advocacy Issue: Related to COVID-19, Ombudsmen reported making calls to their Facilities or plans to begin this shortly. Mike Phillips reported that the Ombudsmen were to contact the Facilities to obtain the census and use this to ID and call Resident Council President personally. One report that a Facility stated this was too much of a problem to do this. One Ombudsman checked the Web presence of Facilities and only 25% of web pages found were interactive and reached out to family of the Residents as well as updated what the facility was doing re COVID-19. Mike also noted the FHCA is hosting bi-weekly teleconferences for AHCA, Facility Administrators, other state agencies to keep them updated and answer questions. They do allow for interested parties to log on and monitor but no participation.
- e) Marshall Kapp inquired about any Legislative actions affected the Ombudsman Program now that the session was ending. We no longer have a lobbyist to keep us informed. The AWG is requesting that the Ombudsman Program establish some source of information to keep us updated during this interim period.



f) Joanna Emerson inquired about whatever did happen with the idea of a recognition pin for Resident Council Presidents. Mike stated that the SO vetoed it as there was no line item in the budget and cost would be high. The AWG felt the Omb Program should look into some form of recognition for RCPs such as a sign for hanging on the door.

III. Next Meeting: Held in June

IV. Meeting Adjourned: 3:45p ET