



Michael Phillips
State Ombudsman

**MEETING MINUTES
Broward Council
Broward District
5/11/2021
CONFERENCE CALL**

OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM REPRESENTATIVES			
Shazad Kashar, Ombudsman	Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Gloria Freyre, District Ombudsman Mgr.	Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Stephen Nasser, ombudsman	Present <input type="checkbox"/>	Elizabeth Cole, Administrative Assistant	Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Paul Wilson, ombudsman	Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Don Henry, ombudsman	Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Terressea Smith, ombudsman	Present <input type="checkbox"/>	Narayanan Sankara (Fred), ombudsman	Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ronna Brown, ombudsman	Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ann, Garfinkel, ombudsman	Present <input type="checkbox"/>
Rafiq Ifthekar, ombudsman	Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sharlene Hennis, Ombudsman	Present <input type="checkbox"/>

GUEST(S)
Susan Jones, ombudsman in-training

OPEN SESSION

- Called to order at 01:49 PM Quorum Established: Yes No
- Open Session Statement Minutes Approved: Yes No **05/12/2020;**
08/11/2020; 11/10/2020; 02/09/2021

UPDATES/REPORTS

- Kashar Shazad, Charmain of the Council read the Open Session Statement. Roll was taken; quorum was established, and Minutes were approved.
- Gloria Freyre district ombudsman manager (DOM) welcomed the attendees to the virtual session and invited them to briefly introduce themselves to the new Ombudsman in Training Susan Jones.
- Elizabeth Cole, administrative assistant informed that Council the highlights of the unexpected visit of Michel Phillips State Ombudsman to our offices on May 10th, 2021.
- Kashar Shazad, chairman of the Council shared the highlights of the last State Council call with the rest of the Council and informed the Council of the new upcoming State Council call.

TRAINING

- Gloria Freyre, district ombudsman manager shared the Administrative Assessment Presentation video which highlights the essential elements as a refresher and to introduce the new Covid-19



FLORIDA OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM

ADVOCATING FOR QUALITY LONG-TERM CARE

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section added to the Assessment Form. The Assessment Presentation video was shared via Teams platform.

- Q & A following the presentation, especially regarding the Covid-19 restrictions and protocols in place.
- Ronna Brown ombudsman asked if it was okay for volunteers to ask the facilities before going for a visit the percentage of vaccinated staff and residents in the facility. Gloria Freyre responded that the question was appropriate, however there were no guarantees that the facility was going to provide accurate information regarding vaccinations. Gloria Freyre suggested to verify State and County infection rate by checking the Health Department Dashboard, and to check on the same site the information regarding facilities infections report. Also, it was suggested to contact the facilities before going and, without disclosing the date and time of the visit, ask about the current visitation protocols and or possible closure due to covid outbreaks.
- Kashar Shazad suggested to consult with the Program legal counselor about the legality of asking the facilities for vaccination information.
- Don Henry ombudsman asked about the term 'cultural change' highlighted on the Assessment video presentation. Gloria Freyre responded to the question by explaining that the term refers to a care, policies and living environment centered on the residents.
- Re-assignment of facilities was also discussed, and it was agreed that each volunteer will contact the office regarding this issue. Otherwise, the facility assignment will remain the same.
 - Volunteers were encouraged to take the virtual trainings offered to the certified ombudsman, and to submit the information to the LTCOP for credits. Also, to submit the mileage and hours incurred in the distribution of the booklets and the fingerprint compliance and encompass all aspects from the environment (home like) to the architecture of the buildings.
 - Volunteers were encouraged to start thinking about returning to the facilities as they feel more comfortable with infection levels and vaccinations. They will contact the office before going on visits or assessments.
 - Governor Desantis Executive Order 21-101 dated May 3rd and its implications effective July 1st, 2021 were briefly discussed. The LTCOP will forward a copy via e-mail following the meeting to all certify volunteers.
 - Gloria Freyre encouraged the Council to attend the Virtual 2nd Annual Florida Elder Justice Conference sponsored by the State Attorney's Office in Broward County to which all have been invited via e-mail.



FLORIDA OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Next Open Council meeting scheduled for August 10th, 2021 at 1:45PM at the DCF building located at: 1400 W. Commercial Blvd. Suite 203. Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33309 or via Virtual Conference Call.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- There were not public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

- Open Session adjourned at 2:55 PM

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