



FLORIDA
OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM
ADVOCATING FOR QUALITY LONG-TERM CARE

Terri Cantrell
State Ombudsman

3. **Proposed Cut to Nursing Home Payment Rates** – Marshall circulated an article regarding the federal government’s proposal to significantly reduce Medicare reimbursement rates for nursing homes. He noted that this seems incongruous with the government’s plan to impose enhanced staffing requirements. The workgroup has not previously gotten involved with funding issues, but Marshall wants ombudsmen to be alert to this proposal and to be on the lookout for its potentially negative impact on resident welfare in facilities.
4. **Reinstatement of Certification Requirement** – Marshall also informed the group that a federal waiver that allowed uncertified nurse aids to work in nursing homes for longer than four (4) months is expiring. This may add to the shortage of nurse aids. Ombudsmen should continue to monitor this in the facilities they visit.
5. **Old Business** – Personal Care Attendants - the workgroup discussed their observation of this new class of workers in nursing homes. Sharon stated that only one (1) of the eight (8) nursing homes that she visits has a PCA program. Marshall stated that many of his facilities are relying on PCA programs as a source of CNAs. The workgroup members agreed it is important for ombudsmen to continue to observe the use of PCAs during their visits to nursing homes and to discuss their observations during council meetings.
6. **New Business** – None.
7. **Next Meeting Date** – September 29th in Orlando in conjunction with the State Council meeting.
8. **Public Comment** – None.

ADJOURNMENT

- Motion to adjourn was made, seconded and approved.
- Workgroup adjourned at 3:00 PM.