



**FLORIDA
OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM**
ADVOCATING FOR QUALITY LONG-TERM CARE

Terri Cantrell
State Ombudsman

MEETING MINUTES

Legislative Workgroup

6/9/2022

Embassy Suites by Hilton Orlando Airport
5835 T.G. Lee Boulevard, Orlando, FL 32822
Face-to-Face and audio conference

WORKGROUP MEMBERS			
Sharon Lauter, Chair (via phone)	Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Marshall Kapp	Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Louis Grossman, Co-Chair (via phone)	Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Raymond "Sully" Sullivan	Present <input type="checkbox"/>
Irene Dion	Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Donna Nagel	Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
OTHER OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM REPRESENTATIVES			
Lynn Hearn	Legal Advocate (Staff Liaison)		

WELCOME/ROLL CALL/APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Called to order at 1:34 PM Quorum Established: Yes No
 Minutes Approved: Yes No (4/18/22)
 With correction that Donna Nagel was present.

MEETING TOPICS

2. **Mission Statement** – The workgroup discussed its mission and worked to draft a mission statement. Marshall proposed that the workgroup name be changed to “Legislative and Regulatory Workgroup.” This motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

The workgroup discussed a desire to be proactive, not just reactive, and to distinguish its mission from the Advocacy Workgroup. After further discussion, reference to the guiding statute, and conferring with the Advocacy Workgroup, a motion was made to approve the following mission statement:

“Monitor, analyze and make recommendations regarding current and proposed legislation/regulation, and identify needs in long-term care and the Ombudsman Program for future legislation/regulation.”

The motion to approve this as the official mission statement was seconded and approved unanimously.



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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.