

**WEST COAST DISTRICT
MID & S PINELLAS COUNCIL OPEN SESSION MINUTES
11/11/2021**

OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM REPRESENTATIVES			
Donna Cottone	Present <input type="checkbox"/>	Alan Sherman	Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Philip Everett	Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mary Stein	Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Cyndi Floyd	Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Barb Timo	Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Steve Freeman	Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Carol Weideman	Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Kathleen Hall	Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Darlene Westberg	Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Jill Harrop	Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dorothy Xanos	Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ellen Lamparter	Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Annette McComas, W Region Ombudsman Manager	Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Pamela Morrill	Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bernie Hackett, Administrative Assistant	Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Wanda Odom	Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

GUEST(S)
Donna Damiani, Vice President FALA

OPEN SESSION

- Called to order at 1:00 PM Quorum Established: Yes No
- Open Session Statement Minutes Approved: Yes No

UPDATES/REPORTS

- **Council Vice Chair – Barb Timo**
 - Council membership is at 15.
 - Requested ombudsmen consider mentoring new volunteers. Philip Everett and Ellen Lamparter agreed to mentor.
 - Ombudsman Activity Report and days of availability requested.
 - Ombudsman Summary report including training hours were distributed via email prior to the meeting.
 - Requested travel be submitted monthly and reminder to add travel associated with delivering activity books to monthly reimbursement forms.
 - Council Chair nominations and election will be held during New Business today.
 - West Coast Advocacy Workgroup is available for research on systemic issues. The research would be brought to the council meeting for discussion and decision by vote.

- **State Council Representative Report – Carol Weideman**
 - Reported that State Council Minutes are publicly posted on the LTCOP Website for review. Provided a brief review of the State Council and Workgroup Minutes. Contact the State Representative if there are any additional questions.
 - LTCOP updated the memorandums of understanding (MOU) with AHCA and APS. Reminder to ombudsmen that referrals for AHCA and APS go through the office. Requested ROM obtain copies of new MOU for review.
 - Announced that Casey Avellone is now in the public relations position at Central Office and the website address has been changed to ombudsman.elderaffairs.org.



- Discussion regarding the availability of a General Presentation for LTCOP. It is available and will be distributed via email for ombudsman use. Ombudsmen reminded to coordinate with the local district office regarding community education presentations.
- Assessments are expected to be 100% completed for the 2021-2022 federal fiscal year.
- **District Ombudsman Manager Report – Annette McComas**
 - Activity books for nursing home and assisted living facility residents can be picked up from the office at any time and distributed.
 - Briefly discussed the CMS visitation guidelines sent via email and distributed to the ombudsmen at this meeting.
 - Distributed the Ombudsman Recruitment Ideas/Suggestions to all ombudsmen. Requested all ombudsmen review the document and provide feedback to the State Council Representative. We will continue discussion of these ideas at future council meetings.
 - Discussed allowing the office staff to share the ombudsmen’s contact information with AHCA surveyors when they are currently at their assigned facility. It was agreed to allow LTCOP office staff to provide a contact phone number to AHCA surveyors to increase communication between ombudsmen and surveyors.
 - Requested a volunteer to send out birthday/encouragement cards to ombudsmen. Carol Weideman volunteered for this activity.
 - Facility Communication Meeting with other agencies is held the 2nd Tuesday of the month. If you have questions, submit them to the office by close of business Friday before the meeting.
 - District Ombudsman Manager position posting closed, and we are in the process of interviewing applicants.

NEW BUSINESS

- Nominations were accepted for Council Chair. Barb Timo was nominated and accepted the nomination. Verbal roll call of votes was unanimous and the motion to elect Barb Timo as Mid & South Pinellas Council Chair passed. Donna Cottone was elected Council Chair and will appoint a vice chair.
- Stefanie Wilkerson of DCF provided the information for the Department of Children and Families Holiday Project. Information was sent via email prior to the meeting. ROM distributed the HCBS client wish lists. December 10, 2021 is the close date for the project.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Donna Damiani of FALA discussed the changes on the new 1823 and changes in the medication pass procedures. Announced that pre-COVID visitation procedures have been enacted at all assisted living facilities in accordance with AHCA instruction. Staff at assisted living facilities are not mandated to be vaccinated at this time. FALA is very interested in promoting legislation regarding increasing and protecting a personal needs allowance (PNA) for residents in Assisted Living Facilities.

ADJOURNMENT

Open Session adjourned at 1:15pm.