



**WEST COAST DISTRICT
PASCO AND NORTH PINELLAS MEETING MINUTES
2/17/2021**

OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM REPRESENTATIVES			
Marilyn Blauer	Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Susan Rodman	Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Michael Coleman	Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jane Spencer	Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Kevin Cronin	Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	James Vermiglio	Present <input type="checkbox"/>
Pauline Crum	Present <input type="checkbox"/>	Annette Perry, ROM	Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Lorraine Domanski	Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Charles Bellows, DOM	Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Jane Horowitz	Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nancy Lemke, Secretary	Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Phil Lachapelle	Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Terry Lonczak	Present <input type="checkbox"/>		

OPEN SESSION

- Called to order at 10:00 AM Quorum Established: Yes No
- Open Session Statement Minutes Approved: Yes No

UPDATES/REPORTS

- Council Chair: Kevin Cronin
Introduction of Charles Bellows, District Ombudsman Manager.
- District Ombudsman Manager
 - OMIS Ombudsman summary reports were sent out prior to the meeting. Review carefully for discrepancies.
 - Quality Assurance (QA) Training is scheduled for the last Thursday of each month going forward, at 10:00 AM.
 - Ombudsman of the Year nominations are due in the office by 2/22/21.
 - Activity books are being delivered to facilities. Please pick up and deliver to your assigned facilities.
 - Claris training and procedures for use are being finalized.
 - Ombudsmen should not pay for their fingerprinting. If the site demands payment, contact DOM or ROM and they will handle it.
 - Remember the Facility Communication meetings are on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. If you have questions regarding your assigned facilities, please submit them to the LTCOP office by the Thursday prior to the meeting.
- State Council Representative: Jane Spencer
No report at this time.
- West Coast Advocacy Workgroup:
 - The Advocacy Work Group presented information and suggestions on the following topics: Personal Needs Allowance Advocacy workflow and the need for the Program to provide a position and talking points for ombudsmen, regular COVID updates to AHCA by facilities regarding vaccinations be available to the Program and or public, staffing advocacy

information recommending State Council advocacy, and to create a Mentor/Training workgroup for West Coast District to enhance consistency in advocacy.

NEW BUSINESS

Based on the information presented by the West Coast Advocacy Workgroup the following four motions were made, second and unanimously passed.

- To Request the State Ombudsman request the State Legal Advocate to provide “speaking points” for Ombudsman use in communicating a consistent message to Florida State Representatives and Senators regarding the need for all Assisted Living Facility Residents on Medicaid receive a Personal Needs Allowance.
- To request the State Ombudsman advocate for AHCA to provide weekly updates of COVID19 vaccine progress at the facility level to the LTCOP for advocacy action with facilities on behalf of residents and for AHCA and the Florida Department of Health identify/define a COVID19 vaccine protocol for residents being admitted/discharged either to another facility or home prior to the second vaccination.
- To share with the State Ombudsman and State Council our concerns with Nursing Staff levels being below National experiences and request State Council advocacy as to what can be done legislatively and locally as a council to encourage facilities to staff based on care needs and not on census.
- To form a West Region Mentor/Education Workgroup to include ombudsmen across the West Region to accept recommendations from the West Coast Advocacy Workgroup regarding knowledge/skills gaps identified in the advocacy research. The West Region Mentor/Education workgroup will research appropriate training for ombudsmen and present recommendations to the West Region District Councils. The Workgroup will be open to other ombudsmen from the West Region and members of the West Coast Advocacy Workgroup to enhance consistency in advocacy.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Open Session adjourned at 10:55 AM.