



**MEETING MINUTES
SOUTH CENTRAL
DISTRICT 17
5/12/2022
Bartow Public Library and via
Conference Call No. (888) 585-9008
Participation Passcode: 767 510 585**

OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM REPRESENTATIVES			
Marilyn Brunner	Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lee Earls	Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Linette Geisel	Present <input type="checkbox"/>	Wanda Harrison	Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Donna Holden	Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Marcella Lancaster	Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Terre Anne Lindstamer	Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	John Milone	Present <input type="checkbox"/>
Orrin Schaal	Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Doris Thews	Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Samantha Kotz, District Ombudsman Mgr.	Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Present <input type="checkbox"/>

GUEST(S)
Name, Title, Agency or Organization
David Conklin, Guest Speaker, Imperial Polk County's Veteran Services
Tim Kirkhart, Guest Speaker, Imperial Polk County's Veteran Services
Serita Evans, Operations and Management Consultant Manager, Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA)
Matt Thompson, Administrator, The Estates at Carpenters
Jo Lewis, Assistant Administrator, The Estates at Carpenters
Jasmine Rozario, Social Services, St Amaro Rehab Center

OPEN SESSION

- Called to order at 1:01 PM Quorum Established: Yes No
- Open Session Statement Minutes Approved: Yes No **(2/10/2022)**

UPDATES/REPORTS

- Council Chair Lee Earls
 - o Welcomed those present in person and on the conference call.
 - o Conducted roll call.
- District Ombudsman Manager Samantha Kotz
 - o Welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked them to join me in welcoming Terre Anne Lindstamer to her first meeting as an Ombudsman.
 - o Asked council to join me in wishing Mr. Orrin Schaal belated birthday wishes for April.
 - o Next Closed Session meeting is Thursday June 9, 2022, at 1:00 pm at the United Way of Central Florida.
 - o Next Open Session meeting is Thursday August 11, 2022, at 1:00 PM at the Bartow Public Library.



Lori Berndt
Acting State Ombudsman

- o Reminded volunteers to review their Ombudsman Reports for continuing education credits. That Certified Volunteer Ombudsman are required to complete 18 hours of continuing education credits this year.
- o Reviewed the Agency for Health Care Administration surveys and final orders for April 2022. Polk, Hardee, and Highlands counties had three facilities fail their surveys, nursing homes Bartow Center, Spring Lake Rehab Center, and adult family care home Marilyn Watkins. Only one facility received a fine, Winter Haven FL OPCO LLC in the amount of \$7,750.00.
- o Appreciation and recognition expressed to Mr. Orrin Schaal for providing lunch.
- State Council Representative Donna Holden
 - o Announced the date and location of the next State Council meeting, June 9-10, 2022, in Orlando, Florida.

TRAINING

- Guest Speakers Tim Kirkhart and David Conklin provided an overview of Imperial Polk County's Veteran Services. They described how they assist veterans and veteran families file benefit claims with the Veteran Affairs (VA) office. They reviewed their processes working through the initial claim or denial to the end. They work appointment only and consider it a privilege to assist those that have served.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Announced several staffing appointments by Florida Department of Elder Affairs Secretary Michelle Branham. Terri Cantrell will be joining us effective May 23, 2022, as our Statewide Long-Term Care Ombudsman. She comes to the agency after several years with the Alzheimer's Association and before that the Greater Cleveland Partnership where she specialized in strategic development and retention as well as volunteer management. Lori Berndt our North Region Ombudsman Manager has accepted the role as Deputy Long-Term Care Ombudsman. With Annette McComas leaving the program we are excited to welcome Diandra Taylor as our new South Region Ombudsman Manager. Ms. Taylor was previously our Southwest District Ombudsman Manager.
- Announced my acceptance of the District Ombudsman Manager position.

NEW BUSINESS

- Mr. Orrin Schaal requested that the issue of mileage reimbursement rate be represented at the State Council meeting. The District Council voted unanimously to have State Council Representative Donna Holden present this at the next State Council meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS



FLORIDA OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM

ADVOCATING FOR QUALITY LONG-TERM CARE

Lori Berndt
Acting State Ombudsman

- Matt Thompson provided brief overview on issues surrounding nursing homes. Shared that this week they were celebrating resident's week, today is Hawaiian day and last week was nursing staff appreciation week. Shared that Polk County is seeing an increase in the number of new COVID-19 variant cases. However, on a positive note there has not been a corresponding increase in hospitalization or deaths. On the legislative side Mr. Thompson discussed the one-year extension protecting nursing homes against liability concerning COVID-19 lawsuits, the Visitation Bill which mirrors the federal laws, and the Financial Transparency Act which will make their financial information available to the public. He announced the 7.8% increase in Medicaid funding and discussed the requirements if a facility accepts the increase. Discussed his role in the staff modernization group.

ADJOURNMENT

- Open Session adjourned at 1:45 PM

CLOSED SESSION

This portion of the meeting is confidential and closed to the public. See § 400.0077(2), F.S.

- Called to order at 2:00 PM
- Closed Session Statement
- Adjourned at 2:45 PM