



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

**MEETING MINUTES**

**South Central**

**District 17**

**11/09/2023**

**1:00 PM EST**

**Bartow Public Library, 2150 S. Broadway Avenue, Bartow, FL 33830**

**and via TEAMS Meeting: Meeting ID: 266 719 827 276**

**Passcode: kyA9BT**

<b>COUNCIL MEMBERS</b>			
Deborah Byrnes	Present <input type="checkbox"/>	Michelle Chaney	Present <input type="checkbox"/>
Robert Gellman	Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Wanda Harrison	Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Donna Holden	Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bill Hulsey	Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Marcella Lancaster	Present <input type="checkbox"/>	Terre Anne Lindstamer	Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Jim Lynch	Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Michelle Matthews	Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Alexander Philipose	Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nichole Robertson	Present <input type="checkbox"/>
Orrin Schaal	Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Present <input type="checkbox"/>
Ingrid Aldana Administrative Assistant	Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Samantha Kotz District Manager	Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

<b>OTHER OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM REPRESENTATIVES</b>	
<b>NAME</b>	<b>TITLE</b>

<b>GUEST NAME</b>	<b>ORGANIZATION</b>
Jodi Streussnig	Alzheimer's Association, Program Manager
Angelique Divietro	St. Camillus Post-Acute & Rehab Ctr, Exec. Director
James Spadola	Oaks at Avon, Administrator
Kenneth Ruthinoski	Charming Lakes Rehab, Executive Director

**OPEN SESSION**

- Called to order at 1:00PM
- Open Session Statement: Yes

Quorum Established:  Yes  No  
 Minutes Approved:  Yes  No [05/11/2023]  
 and [08/10/2023]

## **UPDATES/REPORTS**

- District 17 Council Chair: Orrin Schaal
- Open session statement was read.
- Welcome those present at the meeting, and those attending via TEAMS meeting. On the TEAMS meeting were Ombudsmen: Michelle Matthews, Robert Gellman, and Guests: Angelique Divietro, Executive Director at St. Camillus Post Acute and Rehab Center, James Spadola Administrator at Oaks at Avon and Kenneth Ruthinoski Executive Director at Charming Lakes Rehab.
- Roll call conducted.
- Passed chair to District Manager Samantha Kotz.

### **District Ombudsman Manager: Samantha Kotz**

- Welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- Thanked TEAMS guests for attending remotely.
- Introduced Guest Speaker Jodi Streussnig Program Manager with Alzheimer Association who gave presentation on the stages of Alzheimer. This presentation will count towards the annual continuing education requirement.
- Next closed session meeting is Thursday, December 14, 2023, at 1:00 PM at the United Way of Central Florida. The guest speaker at this meeting will be Georgiana Goodson Community Relations Manager with Senior Helpers.
- We will meet up at Gators Dockside in Highland City Town Center, 5147 US Hwy 98 S, Lakeland FL 33812 prior to the meeting to celebrate Christmas lunch together, address will be sent by email also.
- Next open session meeting will be held on Thursday, February 8, 2024, at the Bartow Public Library.

### **STATE COUNCIL CHAIR: Donna Holden**

- No updates.

## **TRAINING**

- Guest Speaker Jodi Streussnig with Alzheimer's Association gave presentation on the Alzheimer's Association program and their resources for families coping with caring for someone with the disease. Provided phone number for 24/7 Helpline 1-800-272-3900 and their website address, [www.alz.org/help-support/resources](http://www.alz.org/help-support/resources) where families can receive reliable information, advice, and support anytime. Staff are trained and knowledgeable, ready to listen, and can help with referrals to local community programs and services, including dementia-related education. Ms. Streussnig discussed each stage of Alzheimer's disease and the various symptoms and difficulties a family will face, while providing creative solutions and ideas on how to cope and address some of the challenges that arise.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- No new announcements.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- Voted by ballot for the District 17 Council Chair position currently held by Orrin Schaal, and the District 17 State Council Chair position currently held by Donna Holden. Mrs. Holden indicated that she did not want to run for a second 3-year term, her current term ends in February 2024. Terre Anne Lindstamer counted the ballots and Orrin Schaal was elected by the council as the District 17 Council Chair and Wanda Harrison was elected by the council to represent District 17 as our State Council Chair.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS** (limited to 5 minutes each)

- No members of the public accepted the offer to speak.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

- Meeting adjourned at **2:20 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 2:30 PM
- Closed Session Statement read.
- Adjourned at 3:15 PM