



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

**PANHANDLE DISTRICT
PANHANDLE DISTRICT COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
11/18/2020**

OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM REPRESENTATIVES			
Dr. David Pargman	Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Marshall Kapp	Present <input type="checkbox"/>
Patricia Schriefer	Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	John Sample	Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Marth (Ann) Wakefield	Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Phyllis Simmons	Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Daniela Wellner	Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lori Berndt, ROM	Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Annie Flowers	Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Michael Phillips, State Ombudsman	Present <input type="checkbox"/>
Deborah Gerrell, Panhandle District Manager	Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Casey Avellone, Panhandle Administrative Assistant	Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

GUEST(S)

OPEN SESSION

- Called to order at 1:06
 - Open Session Statement by Deborah
- Quorum Established: ☒ Yes ☐ No
Minutes Approved: ☐ Yes ☒ No

UPDATES/REPORTS –

District Ombudsman Manager: Deborah Gerrell

- Marshall, District Chair was unable to attend meeting.
- DOM, Deborah Gerrell sat as acting District Chair.
- Attendance was taken.
- Went over new paperwork and guidelines for visiting facilities in person.

Regional Ombudsman Manager: Lori Berndt

- Discussed various resources we have that helps us meet with the residents.
- Discussed how safe and effective items such as a tent, plexiglass along with PPE items can be used for outside face-to-face meetings.
- Discussed the use of the N95 mask.
 - Can be used for no more than 4 times.
 - Once used store them safely in a paper bag for 72 hours before using again.
- Went over the Visitation Preparation Checklist.
 - LTCOP is not a regulatory body.
 - Discussed that Ombudsman should observe if any COVID-19 regulations are being violated.
- Discussed visitors may be subjected to a COVID-19 test provided by the facility.
 - Ombudsmen are not required to be tested at a facility.
- Discussed items to be given to Ombudsman to take to the facility.



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- Letter that was sent out to all facilities from State Ombudsman.
- Discussed changes to the Administrative Assessment and questions to ask residents.
 - Questions pertaining to COVID-19 added to Assessment Form.
 - Ask residents about experiences while facilities were in lockdown.
- Update on bags for PPE items – Lori Berndt
- Reminded Ombudsman to be mindful when setting items down on surfaces.
- Discussed using new portfolios when entering facilities for containing items.
- Discussed packages that will be mailed out with Ombudsman PPE and other items.
- Discussed case information will need to be sent “Encrypted” to home office.
 - Weekly email with “Encrypt” will be sent out to Ombudsman each week by home office.
 - Weekly encrypted email should be used by Ombudsman to discuss or send confidential information.
- Discussed emergency order on November 4th combined the essential caregiver role and compassionate caregiver role.
 - Children are now allowed to visit facilities.
 - Residents can leave for a family lunch or holiday time.
 - Resident’s do not have to be quarantined upon their return if they pass the screening.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Next Meeting will be on Wednesday, December 16, 2020 from 1:00 – 2:00, by conference call unless otherwise notified.
- The offices are closed on 11/26 – 27 in observance of Thanksgiving.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- There was no public in attendance

ADJOURNMENT

- Open Session adjourned at 1:58

CLOSED SESSION

- No closed session

This portion of the meeting is confidential and closed to the public (§400.0077(2), F.S.). Due to Hippa requirements and the ability to assure that the conference calls for Monthly Panhandle District Council Meetings are secure any Confidential information will be discussed privately with District Office.