MEETING MINUTES
SOUTH DADE & FLORIDA KEYS
DISTRICT 14
August 14, 2026
12:00 PM
Conference Room, 9495 SW 72nd ST, Suite B-100 Miami, FL 33173

COUNCIL MEMBERS			
Anaibis Roque	Present/Yes	Carlos Gallostra	Present/Yes
Charles Garavaglia	Present/yes	Iliana Hernandez	Present/Not
Jose Gregorio Jerez	Present/Yes	Leonel Morron	Present/yes
Margarita Lanzas	Present/Not	Maria Cristina Clark	Present/Yes
Patricia Laskar	Present/Yes	Silvia Perdomo	Present/not
Yanitza Rojas	Present/Yes	Ximena Villacis	Present/Not
Keira Berry	Present/Not	Alicia Salinas - Staff	Present/Yes
Mariela Hernandez - Staff	Present/yes	Edith Guerrero-Trainee	Present/yes

OTHER REPRESENTATIVES	
Pamela Quiroga	FALA-South Region Vi-Chair

OPEN SESSION

- Called to order at 12:10 PM
- Open Session Statement

Quorum Established: Yes
Minutes Approved: Yes (05/08/2026)

UPDATES/REPORTS

District Ombudsman Manager, Alicia Salinas

- Opening statement read to all in attendance.
- Quorum was established; 05/08/2026 minutes were approved.
- The volunteers were reminded to attend the monthly Continuing Education (CEU) Training on August 27th, 2026, by Jamie Freschi "Communicating and Working with Facility Staff. The sessions support the work we do by offering updates, skill-building opportunities, and a chance to connect with fellow volunteers.
- Meeting attachments were addressed.

State Council Representative, Charles Garavaglia

- Report on Mileage reimbursement: Florida's rate remains $0.45/mile. Raising it to $0.60/mile was discussed but would require diverting funds from OPS staffing, which is not recommended. The State Ombudsman Terri Cantrell will request additional funding through the Legislative Budget Request (LBR) process; impact would not be seen before 2028.

TRAINING – LMH ALFs and Behavioral Health Continuum Care, Presenter: Pamela Quiroga, FALA South Region Vice-Chair

- Addressed the importance of having LMH license assisted facilities available in the community.
- Explained that she is advocating for increased funding for these types of facilities. Compared to the Crisis Stabilization Centers, with the LMH ALFs, the difference in payment for services is vast. The CSC bills to Medicaid are between $ 3,000-4,000 per night. However, when a resident is admitted to an ALF Medicaid pays $ 15.58 per day, per resident.
- LMH license ALFs have higher operating costs. The owners must manage two layers of responsibilities: General ALF requirements plus additional LMH requirements. Besides room, food utilities, staffing, supervision, they need to provide coordination with mental-health providers and case managers, transportation or assistance with appointments, behavioral-management resources, higher insurance and liability exposure, etc.
- Many LMH residents have limited ability to pay, and some of them do not qualify for the Long-Term Care Medicaid waiver. (There is 3-5 months waiting list period)
- One of the biggest challenges is ensuring the facility has adequately trained staffing and supervision for residents with behavioral-health needs. The State requires at least 8 hours of LMH training for direct care staff. However, the staff should require more than 8 hours of training. Additional training education should exist.

ADJOURNMENT

- Meeting adjourned at 2:00 PM.