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| **Healthcare Advocates of Florida****Meeting Minutes** | **Date: 6/17/2025** |
| **Agenda Items** | **Notes** |
| **Greetings & Conversations** | Only 29 members completed the survey formWe will try reaching out to the remaining members by phone to find out if they wish to continue being in HAF, and will be asking for help making the calls. Our emails could be going to junk mail. |
| **Speaker**Kelly Wilson is the Director of Medicaid and Health Services at Florida Senior Living Association, and she is prepared to share her expertise with us. The format will be 20-30 minutes from Kelly followed by an opportunity to ask questions. Here is a link to Kelly's bio: [https://www.floridaseniorliving.org/team/kelly-wilson](https://click.convertkit-mail2.com/38u9lzq2pmckh2d98k2irh47g6nnnh7h62o82/p8heh9h458vw24hq/aHR0cHM6Ly9wcmV2aWV3LmNvbnZlcnRraXQtbWFpbDIuY29tL2NsaWNrL2RwaGVoMGh6aG0vYUhSMGNITTZMeTkzZDNjdVpteHZjbWxrWVhObGJtbHZjbXhwZG1sdVp5NXZjbWN2ZEdWaGJTOXJaV3hzZVMxM2FXeHpiMjQ9)Partnership For Aging (PFO) in Palm Beach County: Broward Coalition on Aging (BCOA) in Broward | Kelly became involved with Medicaid LTC programs in the early 2000s as a provider (ALF)It is important for advocates to understand the hierarchy of the state agency on aging, i.e., the “waitlist” now called the “priority list”.Medicaid is a federal entitlement, but states share the costs. In Florida, we have a huge population of kids covered under Medicaid, as well as adults and elders covered under the home and community aid. The money funnels to the managed care providers (insurance companies) and worked is subbed out to contractors for about the last 14 years. Things are uncertain due to proposed Federal changes.As long as someone who is in the system remains eligible, they can stay in the system, though the hope is that they would be able to come back home from community living.**The first step is to call your area agency on aging (AAA). They are the gateway for folks to be assessed and placed on the priority list.** Tell them you need someone to be assessed for any benefits they might be eligible for**.** There is a telephone interview/screening.If a patient goes to a SNF while on the waiting list, the patient needs to contact the AAA to let them know so they may be fast-tracked on the list. There are 11 AAA regions in Florida.We discussed possible effects of the HR1 bill that passed the House and is now going to the Senate for approval. The impact this bill will have specifically regarding cuts Medicare, Medicaid, and SNAP benefits will hurt many people. (The bill also undercuts ACA legislation, which affects us all). **Call your Senators to ask them to vote NO on S1.** **You can reach your members of Congress by calling 202 224-3121.**This article was published in *Florida Health News*: <https://health.wusf.usf.edu/health-news-florida/2025-06-12/how-trump-big-beautiful-bill-act-could-impact-medicaid-for-floridians?utm_source=Stay+Connected+with+WUSF&utm_campaign=c253447c9b-HNF_NEWSLETTER_06_13_2025_GA&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_4f80ebb8c6-c253447c9b-251655396&mc_cid=c253447c9b&mc_eid=1ec5558b56&fbclid=IwY2xjawK-t0FleHRuA2FlbQIxMQBicmlkETEzYXFZemdtOG1yWjB0STRMAR4Wg8u23k5PTXqUx9OoV_u_xXUNNzNsRahhX7wY80NOFjnTUCiAZeWuQXUZ-g_aem_DZxV7Ec1PPG2l8N8SqM5og>**Florida department of Elder Affairs:** <https://elderaffairs.org/resource-directory/aging-and-disability-resource-centers-adrcs/>**Elder Helpline** 800-963-5337 |
| **Membership Committee**Anne LlewellynTammy KrackMaria Vigodsky**New directory listing**Link to complete form<https://forms.office.com/r/DRaFVT0mbG>**Please complete the from prior to June 10.** | **New directory listing*****\*\*If you have not completed the form yet, please do so now\*\****Link to complete form<https://forms.office.com/r/DRaFVT0mbG>We have revised the survey form that members complete to be listed in the HAF directory. We wanted to expand the questionnaire so that it is easier for members to find others for the purpose of making referrals and to collaborate with each other. The new form requests some personal contact information first, as many of our members do not yet practice as independent advocates when they join. If you have a business or work for an advocacy business, you will continue to complete all sections of the questionnaire related to your business and the services you provide. Please set aside about 15 minutes to complete the full form, as you cannot save it and go back to it to complete it.We are going to send out a link to the full membership and ask that everyone complete the survey form.You must complete this new form in order to be included in the HAF member directory.I would like to have everyone’s submission prior to our next meeting, which is June 17. |
| **HAF in-person meeting** | At the May meeting, we discussed the idea of holding an in-person meeting somewhere centrally located, likely in January 2026. We need to follow up to explore feedback.The members in attendance liked the idea and are willing to travel to the Orlando area. Most of our members are located in the Tampa Bay and South Florida areas.We will send out a survey to gauge interest among the full membership regarding interest, preferred location, and format. We would hope to obtain some free space and have an option of a nearby hotel for those who wish to stay overnight.Some ideas for a meeting were offered:* Offer some CEUs for BCPA certification
* Everyone comes prepared to talk about our challenging cases to learn from each other
* Shared resources with group, and make those resources available afterward online
* Networking opportunities to get to know one another better
* Speaker
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| **Healthcare Advocate Summit**September 2-5, 2025 | Register at <https://www.healthcareadvocatesummit.com/>Do you plan to attend? If so, let us know and we will try to organize a HAF get together in Las Vegas. |
| **Communications Committee**Janet Beesting NelsonTammy Krack | We are planning to trial a new messaging app called Zulip. It is similar to Slack and Discord but offers some additional features like a customizable user profile and more.We will trial it with a limited number of users before inviting all HAF members.**Zulip Community*** Organization URL: healthcareadvocatesofflorida.zulipchat.com
* Organization type: Community

No updates on the GNA Directory—still waiting for GNA to fix a bug. GNA directory : <https://gnanow.org/advocates/group-florida-advocates> |
| **Education Committee**Cathy Bowers | **Cathy Bowers provided some links about the Florida Senior Living Institute’s conference in Ft. Lauderdale:**https://www.flseniorlivinginstitute.org/engage2025-fsla-exhibitorshttps://www.flseniorlivinginstitute.org/\_files/ugd/c5f87f\_df42a5e56b914db2824f13b77af36528.pdfhttps://www.flseniorlivinginstitute.org/event-details/engage2025-attendee-registration**CEUs from Healthcare Advocate Summit 2024:** **Recordings are available for CEUs**To watch On Demand Videos, sign in to Swap Card, click on Full Agenda, and click on the course title. They will be available for one year.Other ongoing CEU opportunities:* Triage Cancer: <https://triagecancer.org> (free)
* For a list of pre-approved BCPA CEUs, visit <https://www.pacboard.org/pre-approved-ce-list>
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| **New Business (15 minutes)** |  |
| **Next Meeting:** | **Next meeting: July 15 at 4 pm EST**Link to register: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81714303014> |
| **Next Steps:** | * Contact members who have not yet completed the new form to be included in the HAF directory
* Survey group regarding interest in an in-person meeting in early 2025.
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| **Attended by:** If you attended and don’t see your name here, please contact Janet Nelson at JanetNelson@BreakawayHealthSolutions.com | 1. Speaker Kelly Wilson
2. Anne Llewellyn
3. Cathy Bowers
4. Janet Nelson
5. Ginny Moore
6. Jennifer Littlejohn
7. Betty Ford
8. Laura Hoffman
9. Maureen Rulison
10. Jackee Ndwaru McGlamery
11. Sharon Powell-Sims
12. Michelle Nowak
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