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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Nine Nursing Homes Recognized for Excellence in Long-Term Care**

**Tallahassee, FL** – The Agency for Health Care Administration (Agency) today acknowledged nine Florida nursing homes with a Governor's Gold Seal Award, which recognizes long-term care facilities that deliver consistently excellent quality of care to their residents.

"When a family makes the tough decision to place a loved one in a nursing home or long-term care facility, they need to know that they will receive quality care and be treated with dignity and respect they deserve," said Secretary Liz Dudek. "I want to thank all nine Gold Seal recipients for the great work they do in putting the health, welfare and safety of their residents first, and giving families the peace of mind that their loved ones are getting quality care."

The award-winning nursing homes include six new recipients and three renewal recipients. They are as follows:

- Bridgeview Center, Ormond Beach\*
- Brooksville Healthcare Center, Brooksville\*\*
- The Chateau at Moorings Park, Naples\*
- Concordia Manor, Saint Petersburg\*\*
- Conway Lakes Health & Rehabilitation Center, Orlando\*\*
- Highlands Lakes Center, Lakeland\*
- Melbourne Terrace Rehabilitation Center, Melbourne\*\*
- Riverwood Center, Jacksonville\*\*
- Shoal Creek Rehabilitation Center, Crestview\*\*

*\*\*Denotes the six new nursing homes receiving the award at this time*

*\*Renewals (current recipients)*

"These Florida nursing homes have some of the best nurses and staff in the country that provide superb healthcare services to our seniors. Providing exceptional healthcare takes dedication and long hours, and I congratulate them all on this achievement," said Florida Department of Elder Affairs, Secretary Samuel P. Verghese.



Leigh Davis, State Ombudsman said: "Ensuring Florida's elders are getting the quality care they deserve is a key priority for our Long-term Care Ombudsman Program. Congratulations to these facilities and their staff for setting the gold standard in the delivery of care that other facilities can aspire to."

Nursing homes that wish to be considered for the Gold Seal Award must first be recommended for the award, then submit an application with supporting documentation to the Agency, which is reviewed by the Governor's Panel on Excellence in Long Term Care. The Panel considers the criteria below and makes recommendations to the Governor. Gold Seal recipients must be in operation a minimum of 30 months prior to the date of application and the facility must:

- Meet high quality of care standards that places them in the top 15 percent in their region or top 10 percent in the state
- Have no Class I or II deficiencies within 30 months preceding application
- Provide evidence of financial soundness and stability
- Participate in a consumer satisfaction process involving residents, family members and guardians
- Involve families and members of the community in the facility on a regular basis
- Have a stable workforce
- Have an outstanding record with the State Long Term Care Ombudsman Council within the 30 months preceding application
- Provide targeted in-service training to meet training needs identified.

The Gold Seal Award program was developed and implemented by the Governor's Panel on Excellence in Long Term Care, which is composed of persons appointed by the Governor's Office, Agency for Health Care Administration, Department of Health, Department of Elder Affairs, LeadingAge Florida, Florida Health Care Association, Florida Life Care Residents Association and the State Long Term Care Ombudsman.

Of the 682 licensed nursing homes in Florida, 26 nursing homes currently hold the Gold Seal Award. [Click Here](#) for a complete listing of Gold Seal facilities.

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*The Agency for Health Care Administration is committed to better health care for all Floridians. The Agency administers Florida's Medicaid program, licenses and regulates more than 45,000 health care facilities and 34 health maintenance organizations, and publishes health care data and statistics at [www.FloridaHealthFinder.gov](http://www.FloridaHealthFinder.gov). Additional information about Agency initiatives is available via Facebook (AHCAFlorida), Twitter (@AHCA\_FL) and YouTube (/AHCAFlorida).*

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