

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Manisha Juthani, MD
Commissioner



Ned Lamont
Governor
Susan Bysiewicz
Lt. Governor

Nursing Home Financial Advisory Committee

October 9, 2024 | 9:30-11:30am

Meeting Minutes

Members present: Lorraine Cullen (DPH Co-Chair), Nicole Godburn (DSS Co-Chair), Barbara Cass, Mag Morelli (Leading Age CT), Matthew Barrett (CAHCF), Mairead Painter (State LTC Ombudsperson).

Members absent: Claudio Gualtieri (OPM), Michael Morris (CHEFA).

Legislators present: Sen. Matthew Lesser, Rep. Tammy Nuccio.

Others in attendance: Melia Allan (DPH), Adam Skowera (DPH), Adelita Orefice (DPH), Christina Mink, Jonathan Fink, Emily Shepard (OFA), Susan Mosimann (OPM), Christine Stuart, Melissa Morton.

Introduction

- Lorraine Cullen called the meeting to order at 9:32am.
- Mag Morelli motioned to approve the minutes; Barbara Cass seconded.
 - The minutes passed without discussion.

DPH and DSS Slideshow

- Nicole Godburn and Lorraine Cullen reviewed the slide deck with key data from the past quarter.
 - Nicole shared the bed capacity and census data for the reporting period of July 1 through September 30, 2024, has remained steady around 86 percent.
 - Lorraine shared that no new nursing homes closed in Quarter 4, there are still 197 nursing homes.
 - Nicole shared information on nursing home receiverships, bankruptcies, temporary managers, and closures. In State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2024, they saw one nursing home in receivership, and four closures. Looking ahead to SFY 2025, they have one closure in progress, at Abbott Terrace.
 - Lorraine provided an overview of the Change in Ownerships (CHOWs) that occurred in 2024. Over the past 4 quarters there have been 19 CHOWs, and there are another 16 pending. She then went over the top five most frequently cited federal deficiencies during Q4 and noted that a lot of these deficiencies are all ones seen in previous quarters. Lastly, Lorraine provided information on Immediate Jeopardy (IJ) findings and

provided longitudinal data since 2022. In the past quarter, the department reported 7 IJ deficiencies across 5 facilities, with several of them relating to the physical plant (i.e. the fire alarm system).

Discussion

- Sen. Matthew Lesser asked about trends in nursing homes' changes of ownership, and if DPH had additional data on what is happening.
 - Lorraine shared that all the CHOWs have been in for-profit nursing homes, which is representative of the movement in the industry.
- Sen. Lesser asked if DPH knew about the ownership structure of nursing homes in the state, and if there has been consolidation.
 - Lorraine shared that DPH and DSS do not necessarily track consolidation, but that they look at the ownership structure and management companies, and that the agencies have a process in place for vetting the entities that apply for a CHOW.
 - Mag Morelli clarified that one of the for-profit nursing homes that had a CHOW in Q4 used to be a non-profit before being sold to a for-profit. She added that Leading Age CT has been encouraging non-profit nursing homes to consolidate, to help them build economies of scale and stay in business.
- Sen. Lesser asked for updates on Abbott Terrace, and asked if there are any expected CMS actions in similar homes
 - Lorraine shared that CMS re-issued their termination notice on October 9th, so Abbott Terrace has 30 days until their funding is terminated. Abbott Terrace has submitted a closure plan to DPH and indicated that they will close at the end of this period. Representatives from DPH, DSS, and the Long-Term Care Ombudsman's Office are on site daily overseeing the closure process.
 - In response to Sen. Lesser's second question, Lorraine shared that DPH and DSS do not have any other termination notices at this time from CMS. The recent CMS notice was related to the normal enforcement pattern, there was not a stepped-up enforcement process.

Closing

- Lorraine mentioned that the co-chairs are preparing the annual report for the committee
- The group voted on the 2025 meeting schedule.
- In 2025, the group will meet quarterly on the second Wednesday of the quarter, from 9:30-11:30am. Dates for 2025 are below:
 - January 8, 2025
 - April 9, 2025
 - July 9, 2025
 - Oct 8, 2025
- Nicole motioned to adjourn the meeting, Mairead Painter seconded.
 - The meeting adjourned at 9:48am.