

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Manisha Juthani, MD
Commissioner



Ned Lamont
Governor
Susan Bysiewicz
Lt. Governor

Nursing Home Financial Advisory Committee

January 8, 2025 | 9:30-11:30am

Meeting Minutes

Members present: Barbara Cass (DPH), Mag Morelli (Leading Age CT), Matt Barrett (CAHCF/CCAL), Lorraine Cullen (DPH), Nicole Godburn (DSS).

Members absent: Michael Morris (CHEFA), Claudio Gualtieri (OPM - Melissa Morton attended in his absence), Mairead Painter (LTC Ombudsperson - Daniel Beem attended in her absence).

Introduction

- Lorraine Cullen called the meeting to order at 9:33am.
- Barbara Cass motioned to approve the minutes; Mag Morelli seconded.
 - The minutes passed without discussion.

DPH and DSS Slideshow

- Nicole Godburn, Nick Mazzatto, and Lorraine Cullen reviewed the slide deck with key data from the past quarter.
 - Nick shared the bed capacity and census data for the reporting period of October 1 through December 31, 2024, has remained steady around 86 percent.
 - Lorraine shared that one new nursing home, Abbot Terrace Health Center closed in Quarter 1, there are now 196 nursing homes in the state.
 - Nick shared information on nursing home receiverships, bankruptcies, temporary managers, and closures. In SFY 2025, they saw the earlier noted closure at Abbott Terrace.
 - Lorraine provided an overview of the Change in Ownerships (CHOWs) that occurred in the past quarter. In the last quarter there have been 12 CHOWs, with around 12 pending. Lorraine then went over the top five most frequently cited federal deficiencies during Q1 and noted that a lot of these deficiencies are all ones seen in previous quarters, with the addition of infection prevention as a new tag DPH has been seeing. She provided information on Immediate Jeopardy (IJ) findings and provided longitudinal data since 2023. In the past quarter, the department reported 5 IJ deficiencies across 5 facilities.

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- Lorraine shared information on a Back to Basics training held on November 13, 2024, geared at nursing home administrators and directors of nursing.

CLA Presentation: Understanding Medicare Advantage & Payor Mix Impacts on Connecticut Nursing Homes

- Jennifer Boese, director of Health Care Policy & Innovation at CLA (CliftonLarsonAllen), gave a presentation on Medicare Advantage trends.
- Matt Barrett remarked on a few of the key points, anticipating a rise in Medicare Advantage in the coming years, highlighting concerns in payor mix and financial stability for nursing homes.
- Melissa Morton asked Jennifer about the average length of stay in a nursing facility for individuals utilizing Medicare Advantages, curious if there were differences. Jennifer estimated that there would be lower lengths of stay, given the structure of Medicare Advantage plans.

Discussion

- Several members discussed the issues surrounding Fee For Service (FFS), Medicare Advantage, and other aspects of the system that hurt consumers and impact quality of care.

Closing

- The next quarterly meeting is scheduled for April 9, 2025.
- Mag motioned to adjourn; Barbara Cass seconded the motion.
- The meeting adjourned at 10:31am.