**CONNECTICUT CONTINUING CARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Minutes of the Meeting Held at Masonicare at Ashlar Village in Wallingford**

**April 21, 2023 - Revised June 16, 2023**

**Attendance**

The following committee members were present: Mag Morelli, Chair, Rich Wysocki, Jonathan Fink, Fred Langhoff, Dolores Szyszko, William Thompson, Maureen Weaver, Kathleen Dess, Peggy Joyce, Keith Robertson, and Jon Paul Venoit.

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Morelli at 10:10 a.m. The committee members and the attending public introduced themselves.

**Minutes**

The minutes of the November 18, 2022 meeting were approved with a correction made to the description of the providers in the state that offer CCRC at Home models that are similar to the Seabury Life model.

**Department of Social Services Comments**

Mr. Wysocki reported that there have been no new developments regarding the continuing care model within the Department of Social Services and that no legislative proposals have been introduced.

**Committee Expansion Request**

Ms. Morelli reported that she did send a correspondence to the new DSS Commissioner, Andrea Barton Reeves, articulating the Committee’s request to expand the membership of this committee to include both a provider and a participant of the CCRC at Home model. Commissioner Reeves followed-up with Ms. Morelli who provided her with the history of the Committee and the genesis of the request. The Commissioner agreed that this would be an appropriate expansion of the Committee membership and would support both non-profit and for-profit representation of this model once it expands to include both types of ownership/sponsorship. The Commissioner also expressed an interest in attending a future meeting.

The Committee then agreed to send a recommendation that Renee Bernasconi, President and CEO of Seabury Life in Bloomfield, be appointed as a non-profit CCRC at Home provider representative. Ms. Morelli was then asked to solicit a participant nomination from the CCRC at Home organizations.

**Discussion of Assisted Living Regulations**

At the request of a committee member, a discussion was held regarding the current assisted living regulations and how these are implemented within a continuing care campus.

**ConnCCRA Consumer Guide Update**

Gail Janensch, a resident and member of the public, provided a report on her efforts to update the latest edition of the [ConnCCRA Consumer Guide to Continuing Care Retirement Communities](https://canpa.memberclicks.net/assets/documents/2019%20Copyright%20Final%20Guide.pdf). Ms. Janensch would like to update the guide with information on how the communities successfully dealt with the recent Covid-19 pandemic. Rev. Szyszko, President of ConnCCRA, agreed to serve on the committee to assist with the update. The last edition of the guide was published in 2019.

The Committee members voiced interest in increasing the circulation and availability of the guide and Ms. Morelli agreed to send out a link to the publication.

**Around the Table Updates**

Several Committee members raised the issue of workforce challenges that are facing the life plan communities. Creative ways of meeting these challenges were discussed, as was the concern regarding the potential increase in the minimum staffing requirements for nursing homes.

Occupancy was also reported to be on the rise by several members. It was noted that the positive housing market was helpful in this regard.

Mr. Robertson discussed the challenges of raising capital in the current market, but stated that it was still a reasonable time to borrow and that capital can certainly be raised.

Mr. Thompson suggested that Ruth Mitman, PhD, be invited to address the group at a future meeting. Ms. Ritman is initiating a program focused on caregiving for the caregivers.

**New Business**

There was no new business.

**Comments from the Public**

The individuals attending the meeting were offered an opportunity to comment during the around the table updates.

**Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting date will be June 16, 2023 at Masonicare Ashlar Village in Wallingford.

**Meeting Adjourned**

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