**CONNECTICUT CONTINUING CARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

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

**April 26, 2024**

**Attendance**

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

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Morelli. The committee members and the attending public introduced themselves.

**Minutes**

The minutes of the November 17, 2023 meeting were approved.

**DSS Update**

Mr. Wysocki informed the committee that there were no legislative issues this session that related specifically to the CCRC statutes. He also informed the committee that DSS is continuing to work on the timely posting of the CCRC disclosure statements on their website.

There was a discussion on the transfer of the oversight of unlicensed home care agencies from the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) to the Department of Public Health (DPH). This transition was authorized in statute last year and will take two years to be completed. It was also reported that the DCP is currently visiting such agencies to review compliance with the current requirements.

**Discussion Topics Submitted by ConnCCRA**

A discussion ensued on two topics submitted by ConnCCRA. The first was a question regarding any trends toward non-profit CCRCs entering into affiliation arrangements with other non-profit CCRCs. Several committee members commented on this as a positive trend and a legal explanation was provided regarding affiliations, mergers and sales.

The second topic was the observed trend of CCRCs reducing or eliminating their skilled nursing units. Committee members commented on how the reduction of skilled nursing home beds was both a state and a national trend. Specific to the CCRCs, it was stated that more care is being provided in the resident’s apartment or in assisted living units and therefore there is less demand for the skilled nursing home beds. Because CCRC residents can receive these services in their apartments or in assisted living units, the demand for long-term stays in nursing homes has diminished, though CCRC residents may still rely on the nursing home level of care for short-term, post-acute care. It was also mentioned that there are CCRCs that do not provide nursing home care on their campus, but have affiliations with nursing homes that will provide nursing home care to their residents if needed.

**Update on the Consumer Handbook**

Rev. Szyszko and Ms. Morelli reported that the third edition of the consumer guide developed by members of ConnCCRA and entitled, “Is a Connecticut Continuing Care Retirement Community Right for You?” has been scanned into a PDF. This latest revision was conducted by a committee of ConnCCRA. Ms. Morelli reported that LeadingAge Connecticut was not able make additional requested edits to this version due to the format of the document, but they have provided ConnCCRA with a newly typed word document that can be edited and newly formatted.

**Around the Table Updates**

The following topics were raised and discussed:

* Medicare Advantage and the concerning issues these plans are causing both aging services providers and consumers who need post-acute care.
* The residential care home model and how it can be an asset to a CCRC campus for individuals with limited funds.
* The rising number of scams that are targeting older adults. A training resource available through the FBI office in New Haven was mentioned.
* Workforce culture and one CCRC’s successful implementation of a culture of workforce empowerment.
* The rise in operational expenses and a subsequent conversation regarding solar energy options as a means of controlling rising utility costs.
* Partnerships that one CCRC is forming to bring additional health care service options onto their campus for residents.
* Efforts to convey information to the consumer on the affordability of the CCRC model of care.
* ConnCCRA’s interest in supporting congressional proposals to increase the nursing pipeline.
* Local police offering steering wheel locks for residents who own vehicles at risk of theft.

**New Business**

There was no new business.

**Comments from the Public**

The committee engaged the public throughout the meeting.

**Next Meeting Dates**

The next meeting dates are as follows: June 14, 2024, September 13, 2024, and November 15, 2024. The meetings will be held at Masonicare Ashlar Village in Wallingford.

**Meeting Adjourned**