**CONNECTICUT CONTINUING CARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Minutes of the Meeting Held Via Microsoft Teams**

**September 24, 2021**

**Attendance**

The following Committee members were present: Mag Morelli, Chair, Jonathan Fink, John Johl, Jennifer Rannestad, Jon Paul Venoit and Rich Wysocki

Three members of the public were also in attendance.

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Morelli at 10:00 a.m. and the attendees were informed that the meeting was being recorded. The Committee members and members of the public in attendance then introduced themselves.

**Minutes**

The minutes of the June 11, 2021 meeting were approved.

**Department of Social Services Comments**

Mr. Wysocki reported that there has been no activity involving Continuing Care Retirement Communities (CCRCs) reported to the Department of Social Services (DSS).

**Around the Table Updates**

Ms. Rannestad reported on the continuing workforce shortage that is facing the CCRCs and the entire health care field. She also commented on the rising cost of food and delays in acquiring supplies. She stated that on a positive note, the home care values in Connecticut remain high and that is helpful to the continuing care retirement communities. Her community also plans to hold a vaccine booster clinic in October and held their first outdoor party since the start of the pandemic.

Mr. Venoit supported Ms. Rannestad’s comments, stating that building renovations are being held up by supply delays and that his community is facing the pressure of the current workforce crisis. He also raised a concern regarding delays in the mandatory fingerprinting process that must be adhered to in the hiring of the long-term care workforce.

Mr. Fink spoke on the state and federal funding issues, including the transition to an acuity-based nursing home reimbursement in Connecticut and the several phases of provider relief funding received from the federal government.

Mr. Johl reported that ConnCCRA just held their first in-person meeting in over 18 months. The meeting was held at Essex Meadows and new officers were elected. The new chair of ConnCCRA is Dolores Cisco from Covenant Living in Cromwell and Mr. Johl will speak to her about joining this committee. The Committee members thanked Mr. Johl for his leadership of ConnCCRA and encouraged him to remain engaged with this committee.

Ms. Morelli reported that the provider community was working very hard to comply with the staff vaccine mandate placed on long term care providers by the state and which will soon be placed on all federally funded health care providers by the federal government.

**Comments from the Public**

Gail Janensch, a resident of 3030 Park Watermark, reported that she is still in the process of updating ConnCCRA’s Guidebook for Prospective CCRC Residents. She also discussed the employee appreciation fund established by the residents that she chairs at her community.

Carol Issacs, a resident of Ashlar Village, voiced a concern about the state’s new health information exchange, referred to as CONNIE, and that she looks forward to asking questions regarding the accuracy of electronic health records when the executive director of CONNIE attends the next meeting of this Committee.

Pat Baird, a resident of Ashlar Village, discussed the workforce issues and suggested exploring scholarship programs for culinary students. This led to a discussion of scholarship programs that residents have established. He also voiced his concern that he was not able to access the opt out information on the CONNIE website and he will raise this question with the executive director of CONNIE at the next meeting.

**Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting date will be November 19, 2021 and the meeting will be held via Microsoft Teams. Meeting dates for next year will be determined at that meeting.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.