**CONNECTICUT CONTINUING CARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

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

**September 23, 2022**

**Attendance**

The following Committee members were present: Mag Morelli, Chair, Rich Wysocki, Jonathan Fink, Fred Langhoff, Dolores Szyszko, William Thompson, and Jon Paul Venoit.

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Morelli at 10:02 a.m. The Committee members and the attending public introduced themselves.

**Minutes**

The minutes of the June 17, 2022 meeting were distributed but will be presented at the next meeting for approval.

**Department of Social Services Comments**

Mr. Wysocki reported that a for-profit continuing care community in Manchester had filed a change of ownership in July. He also informed the committee that a new non-profit CCRC is being developed in Stamford.

**Committee Vacancy**

There is currently a committee vacancy for a proprietary CCRC executive director member. The committee was previously asked to bring forward nominations. One nomination was submitted and that was for Kathleen Dess, Executive Director of Essex Meadows. All members in attendance were in agreement that the name of Kathleen Dess should be forwarded to the Commissioner with a recommendation that she be appointed to the committee.

**Suggestion to Add a CCRC at Home Representative**

Ms. Morelli suggested that the committee consider recommending to the Commissioner that a representative of the *CCRC at Home* model be added to the committee. The committee members in attendance agreed that if the statute would allow for an additional committee member, that the committee should consider putting forward that recommendation and the issue will be placed on the next meeting agenda. Ms. Morelli raised the name of Renee Bernasconi, President and CEO of Seabury Life to be considered as a nominee for this position.

It was then suggested that Ms. Bernasconi be invited to the next meeting to provide the committee with an overview of the CCRC at Home model. Ms. Morelli will extend the invitation to Ms. Bernasconi.

**Around the Table Updates**

Mr. Fink reminded the committee of a new accounting standard for business leases that had been delayed, but which will soon be implemented. He stated that the change should not have a major impact on this sector.

Mr. Fink also stated that nursing homes across the country are having difficulty making debt payments due to the impact of the pandemic, but that it does not seem to be impacting Connecticut’s nursing homes. A discussion ensued of benchmark standards for cash on hand.

Mr. Thompson raised the issue of workforce shortages and the financial impact it is having on the CCRC sector. He added that the increasing cost of labor may impact future monthly financials and fee increases.

Mr. Venoit reinforced the comments made about the impact of the workforce shortage. He discussed the need for employees throughout the life plan community.

Mr. Venoit also discussed the “Honor Flight Connecticut” project and how his community is supporting the residents who are participating this year.

Mr. Wysocki reminded the members that we will be setting the dates for next year’s meetings at the November meeting. He suggested that we look to April rather than March for our first meeting in 2023 due to the busy nature of March during the legislative session. There was also a suggestion that the meeting could be held virtually in February. It was decided that the 2023 meetings should be held either in person or virtual, but not as a hybrid. The preference is in person unless weather requires a switch to virtual. Mr. Wysocki will obtain the state policy for notice if the meeting switches from in person to virtual. The meeting format and schedule will be discussed and finalized at the next committee meeting.

Mr. Langhoff reported on the start of construction on new community space at Elim Park.

Rev. Szyszko reported on the staffing challenges faced by her community. She also reported that they are anticipating several move-ins in October and that they have a new arrangement with Middlesex Hospital to set up an on-site medical clinic.

**New Business**

There was no new business.

**Comments from the Public**

The individuals attending the meeting were offered an opportunity to comment.

**Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting date will be November 18, 2022 at Masonicare Ashlar Village in Wallingford.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.