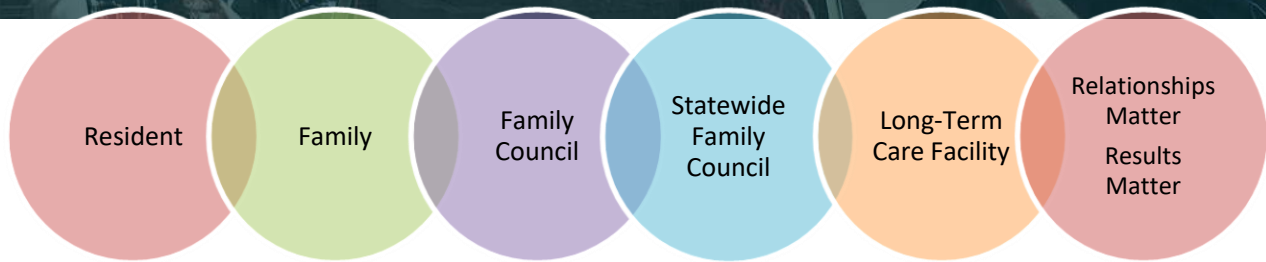


# Connecticut Statewide Family Council



## MINUTES

TUESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2024

A Meeting of the CT State Family Council (CTSWFC) was held on January 23, 2024, via Zoom. The Meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm by Chair Amy Badini and all in attendance were welcomed

**ROLL CALL:** Amy Badini Chair, Rick Kaeser Vice-Chair, Robin DeLieto Recording Secretary, Kathleen Gerard, Irma Rappaport, and Dr. Mara Karpel.

New member: Lori Gibson- Facilitator for FC at Mosaic Jewish Home

**Motion to approve Minutes for November 28, 2023 – Rick. Second – Amy. Motion passed.**

### NEW BUSINESS:

#### ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

The Recording Secretary conducted the elections. Nominee for Chair - Amy Badini. A vote was called of all qualified members in attendance by a raise of hands. Vote passed unanimously  
Nominee for Vice-Chair - Rick Kaeser. A vote was called of all qualified members in attendance by a raise of hand. Vote passed unanimously.

The position of Recording Secretary is vacant. Chair and Vice -Chair will cover in interim. Recoding Secretary expressed that it has been her pleasure to serve as the groups Recording Secretary for the past 2 years and wished the group much success in the future.

#### OPEN FORUM:

Mairead was unable to attend this month's meeting as she was meeting with Ernie Tash, a Forensic Accountant who reviews the books of nursing homes to see how funds are spent. Mairead will be speaker at our February meeting.

## CONNECTICUT STATEWIDE FAMILY COUNCIL

Discussion on how to get people to participate in CTSWFC. Looking to Ombudsman's office for additional support. Mairead said that CTSWFC can send out a Fact Blast to all nursing homes. We are interested in doing this with the two nursing home associations in Connecticut: LeadingAge Connecticut and American Health Care Association. LeadingAge Connecticut, the association representing not-for-profit nursing homes, sent out a nice letter to all nursing homes asking them to distribute to families inviting them to participate. Not known if the nursing homes are distributing.

Mosaic Jewish Home is not-for-profit. Their FC works with Administrator and staff to distribute invites to family members as well as asking if there is any updates or information the nursing home would like to share that can be brought up at the FC meeting. The FC is receiving inquiries from some families.

Dan Beem has a new position – Community Outreach. Perhaps he could be of help.

RA – Volunteers assigned to a nursing home. Would like them to help start local FC.

A member mentioned that she was currently in Austin, TX and had an inquiry on starting a FC for their memory unit.

Discussion regarding concerns about retaliation on the resident by the nursing home for family member starting or participating in a FC.

FC can have meetings off site and with no record of individuals in attendance. One person can act as a spokesperson for the group. Also, meeting can be virtual rather than on-site.

Having a camera in the resident's room can provide evidence if there is any abuse. Can also benefit the staff if resident is confused and claiming abuse that is not actually occurring. RI is working on getting a camera bill passed. Using testimony from CT to move forward. This testimony was used to help pass CT's Camera Bill. If resident has a roommate, roommate must sign off allowing for the camera in the room. ACLU is opposed to the bill stating that it is an invasion of privacy.

On 1/24/2024, member will meet with Ernie Tash, the Forensic Accountant to see how funds are often hidden.

Feb 1 – meeting for Core Q. They have a 4-question survey that they will meet with residents in person. A 5<sup>th</sup> question – “Define your best day” will be added but not for next 2 rounds. Will be used for reimbursement. Hopeful that there will be more reimbursement for the good performing facilities rather than just penalizing the poor performers.

Article in the National Consumer Voice regarding cruel social media posts by staff of residents without their permission. It references a study by the CMA and quotes CT Ombudsman Mairead Painter. The link is below:

<https://www.ctinsider.com/connecticut/article/nursing-homes-social-media-mistreatment-18516763.php>

**OLD BUSINESS:**

## CONNECTICUT STATEWIDE FAMILY COUNCIL

Monday there will be a meeting for HR 3733 which expired and needs to be re-introduced. Essential Caregivers Act. CT has all 5 congressmen signed onto support the bill. You can email Irma at [Irma@owlking.com](mailto:Irma@owlking.com) if you have people in other states that want to contact their representative to support the bill. You can look up your representative on the site [House.gov](http://House.gov).

Nursing Home Coalition Meeting. Comprised of SCIU – labor union, AARP, and Mairead to name a few. National Minimum Staffing Levels. CTSWFC has a seat at the table.

RI passed minimum staffing requirements in 2021 but there has been no enforcement. Governor signed an Executive Order eliminating monetary fines.

CMS requires that all facilities have a Quality Improvement team comprised of the Administrator and Director of Nursing. Should require the consumer/resident to also be involved.

The Health Services Council requires an application to be submitted when a facility is being sold identifying who the new buyer is and if there are issues with any of their current facilities. Tends to be a rubber stamp process.

**Motion to adjourn** by Rick. **Second** – Amy. Motion passed.

Adjourned at 8:13 pm.

**Next meeting will be February 27, 2024 at 7pm**

Respectfully submitted,

Robin DeLieto, Recording Secretary