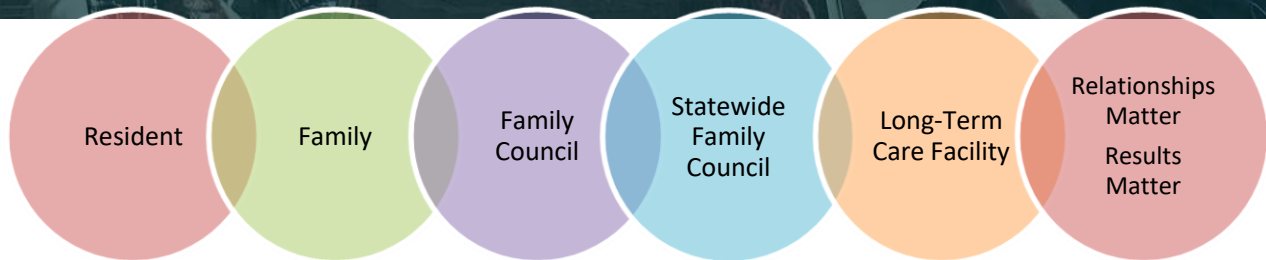


# Connecticut Statewide Family Council



## MINUTES

TUESDAY, MAY 23, 2023

A Meeting of the CT State Family Council (CTSWFC) was held on May 23, 2023, 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, Dr Chris Morren, Dr Mara Karpel, Liz Stern, Laura Bristol, Irma Rappaport, Rep Ann Hughes (speaker)

**Motion to approve Minutes for April 25, 2023 – Rick. Second – Amy. Motion passed.**

### NEW BUSINESS:

**Guest Speaker – Rep Ann Hughes, Topic -** How to Advocate for your loved one. Your power to make a change. Rep Hughes is a licensed social worker and geriatric care manager whose mother also lives in the Jewish Home in Bridgeport. She is on the Committees for Aging as well as the Committee for Labor and Public. Looking at the needs of our senior citizens as well as transportation and housing. Involved with the passing of The Essential Support Person Act 21-71(ESP).

One of Rep. Hughes’s goals is to elevate the role of family advocates to improve care and quality of life. Social Workers should help with things. Our loved ones depend on us to notice when things are not quite right. Contact the Ombudsman’s office to bring up concerns of neglect. Frequent the facility on different shifts, become familiar with different staff, meal times, etc. It is always best if we are local and can be there in person.

The Care Plan Team is required to meet once a quarter but you can call for a meeting at anytime. Participants should be the Social Worker, PT/OT, nurse, or reports from participant if they can not be present. Quality of life can be included in the Care Plan meeting. Family may come to the Care Plan

## CONNECTICUT STATEWIDE FAMILY COUNCIL

Meeting with an Agenda, follow up, we should receive a copy of Minutes from the meeting. Share observations about your loved one. What are their interests? Try music if they are agitated; make a point of connection. This is an opportunity to share strengths about loved one—what they love to do and what they don't like. Who is the ESP? DNR? You can ask for the chart notes.

Each resident should be receiving 3.15 hrs of direct care per day. Those with mental health/behavioral issues tend to require more care which takes away from the other residents.

“For Profit” Nursing Homes – Medicaid Reimbursement rates are too low. Math doesn't work. For Profit vs. Not for Profit nursing home business models were discussed. Wages are too low for CNA's. The CNA's stayed through the pandemic where nursing staff left for higher wage positions and better working conditions. CNA's are the day to day caregivers for our loved ones. Union 1199 going on strike tomorrow. Looking for a pathway to \$25/hr along with retirement benefits.

The Budget negotiations only allowed the Ombudsman's office 1 more position. Nursing Home Transparency Bill – Make sure the funds are going to the best and intended use.

Chronic problem – Underfunding causing decades of problems. Need adequate staffing. Attitude that the aging is destitute and deserving of their situation. Most CNA's are black and brown women. For years the elderly was cared for by an unpaid female workforce. Society is resistant to the idea that they have to pay women to do this now when historically they took care of family at home for free. Residents are majority female. Better care to include privacy, food, and staffing.

Bill passed for staff to have Dementia training each year.

The collective power of a Family Council is more powerful than the individual advocate.

Speaker left meeting.

### **Open Forum**

RegionalFamilyCouncilConsortiumNetwork– <http://regionalfamilycouncilconsortiumnetwork.com>  
IL had camera bill in 2017. Currently 21 states have a camera law.

FC flyers will be emailed out to all again.

Mara's FC has just had their 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting with 15 members in attendance.

Kathleen from RI is a part of the ombudsman resident advocate program. Her strategy is to arrange with facilities to have a meeting with families and residents to introduce the ombudsman program and suggest family council development. Potential for help to form a Family Council at the facility.

We should circle back with Mairead and see if we can get the existing Ras to start FC's in their facilities.

Rick is working on developing a care plan booklet that we can distribute throughout the state.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

## CONNECTICUT STATEWIDE FAMILY COUNCIL

Legislative updates – Ombudsman’s office asked of 12 positions but only got 1. Senators Larson and Blumenthal are working hard to get the Essential Caregivers Act introduced and passed.

**Motion to adjourn** by Rick. **Second** - Liz

Adjourned at 8:23 pm.

**Please note there will be no meeting for June. Next meeting will be July 25, 2023 at 7pm. Agenda to follow.**

Respectfully submitted,

Robin DeLieto, Recording Secretary