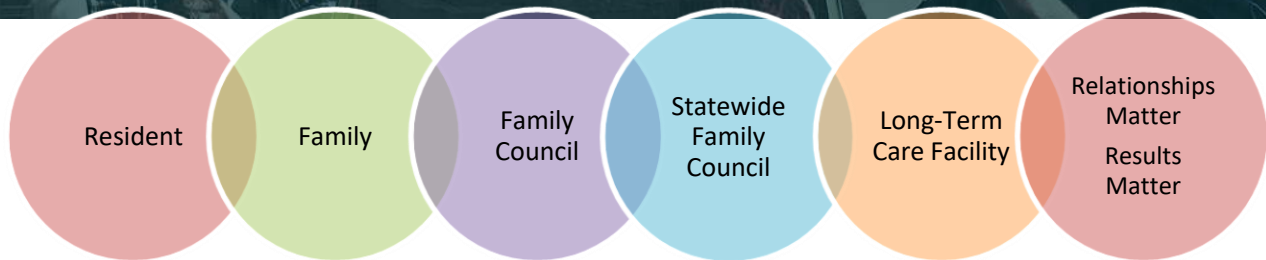


Connecticut Statewide Family Council



MINUTES

TUESDAY, September 26, 2023

A Meeting of the CT State Family Council (CTSWFC) was held on September 26, 2023, via Zoom.

The Meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm by Chair, Amy Badini and all in attendance were welcomed.

ROLL CALL: Amy Badini Chair, Rick Kaeser Vice-Chair, Kathleen Gerard, Irma Rappaport, Dr. Mara Karpel, Liz Stern, Laura Kamine, Andrea Elliott

Motion to approve Minutes for August 22, 2023 – Amy. Second – Rick. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Open Forum

1. Long Term Care Community Coalition (LTCCC) – Family Empower Half-hour, virtual meeting was attended by one of our members, provided excellent information and is an excellent resource. We can send a link to LTCCC to our members for future use: <https://nursinghome411.org/families/>.
2. We can provide comment to Federal legislation **Medicare and Medicaid Programs; for Long-Term Care Facilities and Medicaid Institutional Payment Transparency Reporting (RIN 0938-AV25 and CMS-3442-P)** until November 8. Link to The Consumer Voice webpage with more information for commenting: http://act.theconsumervoice.org/site/MessageViewer?dly_id=16461&em_id=13664.0
3. A meeting was recently attended by a member that featured a nursing home in Connecticut with best practices for retention of nursing home staff. **Link is provided for anyone interested <insert link>**
4. Gray Panthers holds a web meeting. “Transformational Tuesdays”. Today’s meeting was described as excellent and recommended to our members. The meeting had lots of positive energy. Here is a link: <https://www.graypanthersnyc.org/transformationtuesdays>

CONNECTICUT STATEWIDE FAMILY COUNCIL

5. Essential Caregivers Coalition was mentioned as another organization that provides useful information. Here is a link to their website: <https://www.essentialcaregiverscoalition.org/>
6. Amy suggested that we put together a spreadsheet for our members with topics and links to web pages, and/or presentations, as a resource for our members. Rick agreed to start a draft and circulate for review & comment.

Mairead Painter – Topic: Update from the Ombudsman’s Office. Mairead joined the meeting at 7:15.

1. Mairead will hold ‘office hours live’ every Tuesday night in October, where callers can ask questions. We are welcome to participate.

2. A Community Ombudsman role is being developed to provide outreach, support and provide options to people before they go to long term care facilities. This position will coordinate with the LTC Ombudsman’s office

3. 2024 legislative ideas were reviewed, as follows:

1. Expand ombudsman program – increase staffing to meet a ratio of 1 regional ombudsman for every 2000 beds. Currently the staffing level is 1 regional ombudsman to 3600 beds. The issue of ‘waivers’ was discussed. The outcome is intended to better integrate people (who qualify for a LTC Facility under Medicaid) with the community, so that they are not put in a LTC facility if there are other options. This initiative would enable LTC staff & specialists to support people in the community and work as one, integrated system.

We were invited to participate in a monthly meeting with Mairead, “CT Medicaid Rightsize For Balancing” Steering Committee, held First Friday of each month from 10:30 to 12:30. (Microsoft Teams meeting: Join on your computer, mobile app or room device; Click here to join the meeting Meeting ID: 284 516 563 486, Passcode: G7AVyX; Download Teams | Join on the web)

2. Skilled LTC – Require LTC Facilities to meet a 3.0 nursing staff to resident ratio before they can admit more people.

3. Memory Care/Dementia Diagnosis – requires testing, counseling and access to treatment before a person can be approved for a LTC facility.

4. Require a financial review of any company that is planning to buy a LTC facility.

5. Acuity-based Accountability – use the results of the CoreQ Survey, currently being rolled out by UConn/ DPH to develop a standard level of care. If a LTC is determined to be substandard, they cannot admit new residents and must hire an independent consultant to work with the facility, develop and execute an improvement plan, until result improve to the standard level of care.

6. Increase penalties for abandonment of a LTC facility.

7. Provide support for the DPH FLIS Surveyor Teams must be diversified with members other than all nurses, to include a social worker, recreation director and dietitian.

8. Assisted Living Boiler Plate – create a standard for assisted living facilities. Currently, assisted living facilities are not licensed by DPH, there is no requirement for staffing levels, etc.

The need for ‘residential care homes’ for diverse populations with diverse needs was discussed.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Amy provided an update on a speakers list for our monthly meetings with monthly topics through Dec 2024.

CONNECTICUT STATEWIDE FAMILY COUNCIL

2. Member survey - A survey will be sent to everyone on our meeting distribution list for feedback from members and to encourage their attendance. Also, the survey will ask who would like to remain on the email distribution and who would like to be removed.
3. VOICES Conference – Liz will be attending for CTSWFC and was invited to make a brief pitch for Family Councils.
4. CoreQ Survey – Rick gave an update of the Aug 24th meeting he attended to learn about the survey and investigate the possibility of including a 4th question that we would like included that relates to quality of care (person-centered care). Rick & Amy will be attending a meeting on Sept 27 with UConn and DPH to pitch a 4th question we would like include on the survey: “The staff regularly supports me to achieve my Best Day”.

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

Adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Next meeting will be October 24, 2023 at 7pm. Agenda attached.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Kaeser, Recording Secretary, pro-tem