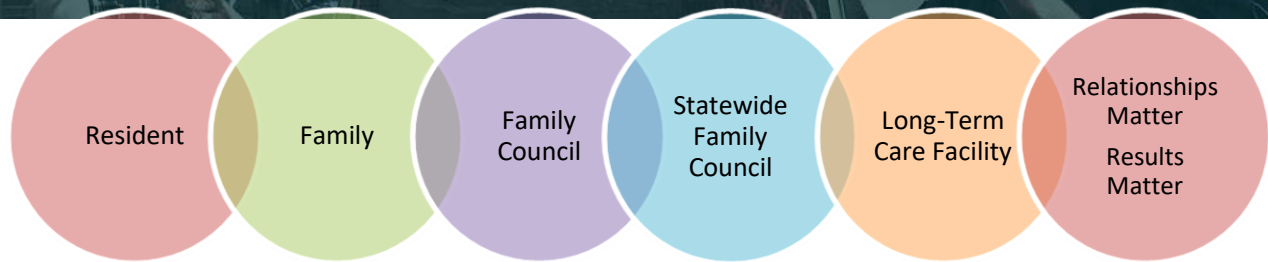


# Connecticut Statewide Family Council



## MINUTES

Tuesday, October 22, 2024

A Meeting of the CT State Family Council (CTSWFC) was held on October 22, 2024, via Zoom. The Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chair Amy Badini and all in attendance were welcomed.

1. **Roll Call and Introduction of New Members:** Mairead Painter, Jenine Ferrari, Dr. Mara Karpel, Alice Bonner, Andrea Elliott, Liz Stern, Rick Kaeser, Amy Badini, Donna Gore
2. **Minutes for June 25, 2024 meeting** were reviewed and there were no comments or corrections.
3. October is Resident Rights Month/CT Resident Council Pilot Program via Moving Forward Coalition – Moving Forward Coalition initiatives, including “Back to Basics Training”, were discussed.
- 4a. **New Business:** Mairead Painter, State Long Term Care Ombudsman, provided an update on topics being developed into the upcoming legislative agenda.
  - Current reporting requirements of long-term care (LTC) facility ownership is broad, with a narrow definition. Future initiative is to include more facilities, including residential care homes, in the regulations that cover nursing homes.
  - Fit job descriptions for home care service workers with existing regulatory definitions for LTC facilities.
  - Expand the benefits of Veterans from a few contracted NHS facilities to all LTC facilities. Currently, vets pay for all of care, they have to choose from limited number of homes, example: nothing is available in Eastern CT.
  - Currently cost of living adjustments (COLA) for SS & Medicare automatically go to increase monthly rates to the LTC facility. Future initiative will allow COLA to go to the resident, not LTC facility, automatically.
  - Define LGBTQ+ residents rights.

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- Costs of moving residents living in resident care homes & assisted living facilities in an emergency currently lies with the resident. Future initiative will move coverage to move residents in an emergency, # beds, etc. to DSS.
- Currently, DHS survey teams are made up of all nurses and many issues are identified that are not nursing related. Survey teams need a balanced skill set. Future initiative is to diversify DHS survey teams to require participation & perspective of social workers, dietitian & others.
- Additional future initiatives discussed will increase monetary penalties for ‘abandonment’ of LTC care facilities; increase dignity by limiting the number of beds & number of beds per room; require more scrutiny for change of ownership; bring facilities up to code; provide WRAP assistance, provide waivers for transfer of service to lower level of care; and, provide catastrophic insurance for residents in residential care homes & assisted living.

4b. Old Business: Upcoming initiatives and event were communicated:

- First week of Jan 2025, Residential Council Pilot Project will begin. This is an 18-month project with expected participation of 25 to 90 LTC facilities. “A Guide to Strengthening Resident Councils in Nursing Homes” developed for this project, will be followed.
- DPH, working with an independent consultant and UConn, launched a pilot program titled, “Fear of Retaliation”. It consists of an education guide, videos, etc.
- Consumer Voice is sponsoring a webinar on Nov 15th, Caregivers for Compromise, care2.0.org.
- The Essential Caregivers Act 2024 continues to get co-sponsors and supporting organizations.

4. Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

**Next meeting will be on January 28, 2024 at 7pm**

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Kaeser, Recording Secretary, pro-tem