

# Residential Care Home Evacuation & Mutual Aid Digital Platform Workgroup

## Meeting Minutes

Date: 9/23/25

Time: 9:30am-10:30am

Location: Virtual Microsoft Teams - [RCH Working Group Meeting | Meeting-Join | Microsoft Teams](#)

## Convening Authority

Pursuant to Section 8 of [Public Act 25-16](#), the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman, in conjunction with the Commissioners of Public Health and Social Services, convened the first meeting of the Residential Care Home Evacuation & Mutual Aid Digital Platform Workgroup.

## Attendance

- **(Chair / State Long Term Care Ombudsman):** Mairead Painter
- **(Commissioner of Public Health or Designee):** Lorraine Cullen
- **(Commissioner of Social Services or Designee):** Richard Wysocki
- **(RCH Representatives | Minimum of Two):** Mag Morelli, Ken Przybysz, Mary Mason

**Additional Stakeholders:** James Augustyn, Daniel Beem

## Statutory Charge of the Workgroup

The group is tasked with examining:

1. Residential care home evacuation procedures.
2. Whether to require residential care homes to participate in a mutual aid digital platform that supports the risk management needs of health care organizations, including dedicated solutions for emergency management, inspection, testing and maintenance management, inspections management and health care coalition management.

A final report, including findings and recommendations, must be submitted to the General Assembly's Human Services, Public Health, and Aging Committees no later than **January 1, 2026**.

## Meeting Proceedings

- **Opening Remarks:** The Ombudsman welcomed attendees, reviewed the statutory mandate, and outlined expectations for the workgroup's timeline.
- **Introductions:** Each member introduced themselves and shared their perspective on evacuation and emergency preparedness in residential care homes.
- **Discussion Item 1 – Evacuation Procedures:**
  - Overview of current regulatory requirements and practices for nursing homes vs residential care homes.
  - Identification of strengths and gaps in evacuation planning, training, and coordination between settings.
    - Strengths Include:
      - DSS/DPH/DHMAS/LTCOP Continues to Support Homes and continue to hold Multi-Agency Training Sessions to support best practices and help homes address issues before they become emergencies or face closure.
    - Gaps Include:
      - No Requirement of Insurance for catastrophic Issues
      - Currently there is no ability for RCH's to Shelter residents during evacuations without a full discharge causing disruptions to continuity of care and increased administrative burden
      - Due to increased administrative burden and no ability to "shelter" many residential care homes have expressed concerns about admitting individuals sight unseen during evacuations due to historical challenges
      - Medication Transportation Challenges
      - Limited regulatory requirements in place for guidance for Natural Disaster Plans and Emergencies
      - How increasingly Evacuations and Emergencies are tied to Closures
      - Some Residential Care Homes are HCBS Approved VIA DSS but some are not.
      - There is no Universal Mechanism to Notify the Greater CT Residential Care Homes that an Emergency is taking place.
      - Barriers During Evacuations Include:

- Ensuring Resident Access to Medical and Mental Health Providers
- Consideration of lessons learned from recent evacuations/closures.
- **Discussion Item 2 – Mutual Aid Digital Platform:**
  - Consideration and Coordination of a future presentation of potential platforms such as Jenson Hughes - Mutual Aid Plan that could support emergency management and inspections.
  - Discussion of feasibility, cost, implementation challenges, and benefits for residential care homes.
- **Next Steps:**
  - Confirm best practices and collect existing evacuation plans and policies for review.
  - Request availability for presentation on nursing home mutual aid platforms currently in use.

## Action Items

- Ombudsman's Office to circulate statutory language and reporting requirements.
- DPH to provide data on prior residential care home closures.
- DSS to confirm context on funding or Medicaid-related considerations.
- Residential Care Home representatives to reach out to members to discuss from their perspectives challenges/success and examples of current evacuation protocols.
- Next meeting to be scheduled in October 2025.

## Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

## Next Meeting

**Date/Time:** 9:30a-10:30a

**Microsoft Teams**

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 222 070 786 704 3

Passcode: 5i8Cv272

**Focus:** Review of evacuation procedures and initial assessment of digital platform options.

## Statutory Establishment

### Public Act 25-16

Sec. 8. (Effective from passage) The State Ombudsman, in conjunction with the Commissioners of Public Health and Social Services, shall convene a working group to examine (1) residential care home evacuation procedures, and (2) whether to require residential care homes to participate in a mutual aid digital platform that supports the risk management needs of health care organizations, including dedicated solutions for emergency management, inspection, testing and maintenance management, inspections management and health care coalition management. The working group shall include not less than two representatives of residential care homes. Not later than January 1, 2026, the working group shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to human services, public health and aging regarding the findings and recommendations of the working group.

## Current DPH Regulations Pertaining to Operations, Preparedness and Closures

### Sec. 19-13-D6. Homes for the aged and rest homes

## List of Recent RCH Closures

Credential	Status	Reason	Name	Address	City
<a href="#">RCH.1854RCH</a>	CLOSED	VOLUNTARY SURRENDER	<a href="#">HOLY SPIRIT HEALTH CARE CENTER INC</a>	72 CHURCH ST	PUTNAM
<a href="#">RCH.1489RCH</a>	CLOSED	VOLUNTARY SURRENDER	<a href="#">WHITE OAK MANOR LLC</a>	688 MAIN ST N	SOUTHBURY
<a href="#">RCH.1774RCH</a>	CLOSED	VOLUNTARY SURRENDER	<a href="#">ROSE HAVEN LTD</a>	31 NORTH ST	LITCHFIELD
<a href="#">RCH.1855RCH</a>	CLOSED	VOLUNTARY SURRENDER	<a href="#">CAROLINE'S RESIDENTIAL CARE</a>	37 CLARK AVE	EAST HAVEN
<a href="#">RCH.1840RCH</a>	CLOSED	VOLUNTARY SURRENDER	<a href="#">TIDELAWN MANOR</a>	97 SEASIDE AVE	WESTBROOK

<a href="#">RCH.1845RCH</a>	CLOSED	VOLUNTARY SURRENDER	<a href="#">NEWFIELD REST HOME INC.</a>	876 NEWFIELD ST	MIDDLETOWN
<a href="#">RCH.1711RCH</a>	CLOSED	VOLUNTARY SURRENDER	<a href="#">SACHEM HOME</a>	33 SACHEM ST	NORWICH
<a href="#">RCH.1856RCH</a>	CLOSED	VOLUNTARY SURRENDER	<a href="#">NORAH'S PLACE LLC</a>	57 ELM ST	VERNON ROCKVILLE
<a href="#">RCH.0001904</a>	CLOSED	VOLUNTARY SURRENDER	<a href="#">WESTPORT REHABILITATION COMPLEX</a>	1 BURR RD	WESTPORT
<a href="#">RCH.1834RCH</a>	CLOSED	VOLUNTARY SURRENDER	<a href="#">HICKORY HILL REST HOME INC.</a>	280 MIDDLE ROAD TURNPIKE	WOODBURY
<a href="#">RCH.1569RCH</a>	CLOSED	VOLUNTARY SURRENDER	<a href="#">EVANGELICAL BAPTIST HOME</a>	574 ASHFORD CENTER RD	ASHFORD
<a href="#">RCH.0001865</a>	CLOSED	VOLUNTARY SURRENDER	<a href="#">MYSTIC RIVER RESIDENTIAL CARE</a>	14 GODFREY ST	MYSTIC
<a href="#">RCH.0001876</a>	CLOSED	VOLUNTARY SURRENDER	<a href="#">ST. JOSEPH'S INDEPENDENT LIVING</a>	6448 MAIN ST	TRUMBULL
<a href="#">RCH.1819RCH</a>	CLOSED	VOLUNTARY SURRENDER	<a href="#">HOLLY VIEW MANOR INC</a>	38 PROSPECT PL	BRISTOL

## Appendix:

Attached: Current Mutual Aide Plan Memorandum of Understanding For Connecticut Long Term Care Facilities Section 8 (Established May 19, 2022)