

## **Residential Care Home Evacuation & Mutual Aid Digital Platform Workgroup Meeting Minutes**

Date: 11/18/25

Time: 9:30am-10:30am

Location: Virtual 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**

- **(Co-Chair / State Long Term Care Ombudsman):** Mairead Painter (excused at start; meeting opened by Daniel Beem on her behalf)
- **(Co-Chair Commissioner of Public Health or Designee):** Lorraine Cullen
- **(Commissioner of Social Services or Designee):** Richard Wysocki (excused)
- **(RCH Representatives | Minimum of Two):** Mag Morelli, Ken Przybysz, Mary Mason, Mary Hagerty
- **Invited Presenter:** Andrew McGuire, Jensen Hughes
- **Additional Attendees:** Rachel Goodsell

### **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**

- **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Daniel Beem at **9:32 a.m.** A roll call was taken, and attendance was confirmed.
- **Approval of Previous Minutes:** The minutes from the October 21 23, 2025 meeting were reviewed.
  - **Motion to Approve:** Lorraine Cullen
  - **Second:** Rachel Goodsell
  - **Vote:** Approved unanimously.
- **Follow-Up on RCH Provider Participation:** Daniel Beem reported that the RCH originally invited to speak about their evacuation experience was unable to attend. Members expressed interest in continuing efforts to bring forward RCH providers who have lived

experience with emergency evacuations and returns. Members expressed interest in continuing efforts to bring forward RCH providers who have lived experience with emergency evacuations and returns.

- **Presentation: Mutual Aid / Protect Advisor Platform**

**Presenter:** *Andrew McGuire, Jensen Hughes*

- Andrew McGuire provided an overview of the Mutual Aid / LTC-MAP (Protect Advisor) emergency management system, including:
  - History of Connecticut's participation, beginning in **2010** with Region 3 nursing homes.
  - Expansion across all regions and inclusion of all nursing homes and assisted living communities statewide.
  - The scalable design of the platform—facilities can use minimal or comprehensive features depending on their needs.
  - Capabilities include:
    - Real-time tracking of available beds
    - Resident tracking during evacuation
    - Resource requests and fulfillment
    - Communication tools for facilities and emergency management
    - Structured reporting during activations
  - Importance of facility engagement and training; Jensen Hughes provides ongoing support.
  - Collaboration with local and regional emergency managers:
    - Emergency management partners receive read-only access for situational awareness.
    - Helps bridge information gaps between first responders, regional coordinators, and healthcare providers.
- **Discussion:**
  - Workgroup members expressed appreciation for the demonstration and noted the potential benefits for an RCH-specific emergency coordination system.
  - Mr. McGuire provided a brief overview of how often Connecticut activates the Long-Term Care Mutual Aid Plan (LTC-MAP). Connecticut averages 20–26 activations per year, most of which are pre-storm preparedness activations rather than full evacuations. Activations also occur in response to localized incidents such as infrastructure failures, weather-related impacts, and operational disruptions.
  - He noted that several annual events qualify as “near misses,” where the system is activated to prepare receiving facilities and transportation resources, even if evacuation ultimately does not occur.

- Used a recent example of a gas leak at Nursing Facility which led to a limited evacuation of a non-resident areas. LTC-MAP was activated, and receiving beds and transportation were ready within 30 minutes, though mitigation allowed residents to shelter in place.
- The group also discussed cost considerations should Residential Care Homes (RCHs) pursue participation in a statewide mutual aid platform. Mr. McGuire explained that LTC-MAP carries ongoing annual costs that support platform licensing, training, technical assistance, and coordination. Costs vary depending on the number of participating facilities and required support levels. He agreed to provide general cost expectations and a high-level estimate for RCH participation for the workgroup's review. He recalled ~\$350/yr Per Member Fee.
- Mag Morelli emphasized that the presentation was intended to help the workgroup gain a shared understanding of the system's capabilities, regardless of whether the group recommends adopting Mutual Aid for RCHs.

### **December Meeting Planning**

- Lorraine Confirms she will finalize with Tony (DPH) to prepare to attend at the December meeting to provide overview regarding:
  - DPH's emergency preparedness expectations
  - Regulatory requirements
  - What DPH looks for during an evacuation or emergency

### **Action Items and Next Meeting**

- **Action Items**
  - DSS will provide input regarding any required amendments to the State Plan Amendment (SPA) and CMS/HCBS shelter-in-place protocols, should a sheltering model be pursued for Residential Care Homes.
  - Andrew McGuire will provide a high-level estimate of implementation and ongoing costs for adopting a mutual aid digital platform for Residential Care Homes.
- **Date of December Meeting:**
  - Members agreed to schedule the next meeting for Tuesday, December 16, 2025, at 9:30 a.m.

### **Adjournment**

- **Motion to Adjourn:** Mary Hagerty
- **Second:** Mag Morelli

- **Vote:** Approved unanimously.  
The meeting adjourned at **10:30 a.m.**

**Minutes prepared by:** Daniel Beem

**Reviewed by:** Mairead Painter, State Long-Term Care Ombudsman

Next Meeting

**Date/Time:** Tuesday, December 16, 2025, 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

**Microsoft Teams**

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 222 070 786 704 3

Passcode: 5i8Cv272