Consumer Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

October 13th, 2020

Meeting Date	Meeting Time	Location
October 13 th , 2020	3:00 – 5:00 p.m.	Zoom Meeting

Participant Name and Attendance

Agenda

Jeffrey G. Beadle		Christiane Pimentel	Х	Adrienne Benjamin	Х	
Alan Coker	Х	SB Chatterjee		Peggy Lampkin		
Robert Krzys	Х	Soneprasith Phrommavanh	X	Andre L. McGuire		
Velandy Manohar	Х	Taylor Edelmann	Х	Daniel C. Ogbonna	Х	
Terry Nowakowski	Х	Ann R. Smith	X			
Others Present						
Dashni Sathasivam (HES) Teki		Tekisha Dwan Everette (HES)				
Leslie Greer (OHS)	Olga Armah (OHS)		•			
Ormand Clarke (OHS)	rke (OHS) Margaret					

Meeting Information is located at: https://portal.ct.gov/OHS/SIM-Work-Groups/Consumer-Advisory-Board

1.	Welcome	Terry Nowakowski				
	Call to Order The scheduled meeting of the Consumer Advisory Council (CAC) was held on					
	Tuesday, October 13 th via zoom. The meeting convened at 3:03 p.m. Terry Nowakowski chaired the meeting.					
2.	Public Comment	Terry Nowakowski				
	There was no public comment.					
3.	Approve July 14th, 2020 Meeting Summary	Terry Nowakowski				
	The motion was made by Terry Nowakowski and seconded by Velandy Manohar to approve the					
	minutes of the Consumer Advisory Council meeting of September 15th, 2020. Motion carried.					
4.	Standing Committee Reports	Tekisha Dwan Everette, HES				
	• Velandy Manohar provided a summary of his analysis and observations of the findings presented 197 page final DPH report prepared by Mathematica. He commented on the disturbing information of surges in specific Nurshing homes which he also mentioned when he presented on the report during the previous Community Engagement and Outreach Standing committee of the Consumer Advisory Council of the OHS-CT. He also referenced articles from the CT Mirror: COVID outbreak at Colchester nursing home sparks state response in southeastern Connecticut and Report: In early stages of COVID-19, nursing homes overlooked as state focused on hospitals. He also mentioned that the early efforts of COVID-19 response efforts were focused on strengthening hospitals which hampered the respone to long-term care facilities, He also mentioned that the various sets of data used for tracking also added to the confusion of outcomes in long-term care facilities. being experienced in Connecticut in real-time. Velandy Manohar also noted that not all of the concerns raised by the CAC Bob Krzys and specifically were addressed by the report. He also mentioned Norwich, which continues to facing adverse outcomes.					

Responsible Person(s)

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- Adrienne Benjamin asked what is the mechanism of action between good intentions and things changing.
- Bob Krzys responded that 70% of people in nursing home are in the Medicaid program, indicating that reimbursement rates are not enough. Also, the First Families Coronavirus legislation allowed CT to increase the rate by 10% in the short term. So it would take a significant amount of funds.
- Ann Smith did agree that investing money into the system is part of the solution, however also
 paying attention to the fact that the money currently being put into the system is not being put
 to use in showing that there is adequate staffing, supplies, professional development etc. There
 is also the fact that smaller private nursing homes are being bought up and merged into larger
 for-profit organizations that are focused on maximizing their profits at the expense of quality
 and appropriate staffing levels.
- Ann Smith also agreed that it is mostly Medicaid dollars. In order to start to address this, she
 advised looking at the oversight reports from the CMS and how they were enforcing existing
 regulations. Some of this can be handled at the state level when looking at DPH and licensing,
 however more robust federal oversight is needed. This is not a simple or one-step approach. It
 is a number of things that come together that have put our nursing home residents at an
 extreme level of risk.
- SB Chatterjee suggested sharing the CAC's thoughts up to Kate McEvoy and the MAPOC Council since the Medicaid dollars goes through them.
- Velandy Manohar also mentioned his concerns of the power of these huge corporations and their significant lobbying power.
- Adrienne Benjamin mentioned that Kate McEvoy does has her hands full as director of Medicaid
 and with leading the CT COVID-19 task force.. DPH would be the entity to address the
 messaging because it is up to them to credential.
- Terry Nowakowski asked Bob Krzys and the Council if there was a meeting or webinar with Mathematica going through the results. She would find out.
- Velandy Manohar requested that a few council members should attend that meeting. He also thinks that the CAC standing committee has enough to go forward. Potential steps forward is lobbying the people controlling the financing. The other is to talk to stakeholders
- Bob Krzys agreed that for the CAC to stay in their lane, they need to collect the community
 voice and bring that back to OHS. He requested reconveneing the standing committee. Also,
 Mathematica discussed pursuing and better funding the CT Rebalancing Fund and to address
 the responsibility of nursing homes to address social supports. The report recommends
 developing a personal care plan.
- Ann Smith also requested that the CAC keeps a focus on the racial and ethnicrelated disparities in population outcomes.
- Velandy Manohar also mentioned that the CAC could try to strengthen the efforts of advocates for long-term care facility quality
- Alan Coker recounted his personal experience and challenges in advocating to get out of a nursing home. He agreed with Ann Smith and Bob Krzys statements and reiterated that he wants to be involved in these efforts.

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- SB Chatterjee also mentioned statistics on mental and behavioral health and disproportionate impact on minority communities.
- Velandy Manohar added that drug overdose and gun violence, in addition to clinically treated mental health issues have skyrocketed.
- Ann Smith asked: how do people of color end up in nursing homes and in response to the disparities of health care. There is an importance to address health equity at all levels. For example, pre-covid, Ann Smith would go into nursing home for her elder law practice. There are many people who have experienced amputations as a result of diabetes. Although it is mangable and treatable, it is not happening for people of color. Looking at race, ethnicity and linguistic data, there is a crisis of amputations among Black males. This is heartwrenching and preventable considering the amount of money being poured into health care. The system is in need of revamping.
- Velandy Manohar also mentioned that the treatment within the nursing home is not rehabilitative enough to get back into the community.
- Terry Nowakowski mentioned the CT Housing and Engagement Support Services (CHESS)
 initiative that is soon to be launched. It is a Medicad program in collaboration with DMHAS, DSS
 and DOH. . It intends to keep people in subsidized housing in the community out of long-term
 care facilities in cases where it is appropriate. She will be able to have more information at a
 future meeting.
- Daniel Ogbonna asked Terry Nowakowski to send out information on this initative as he was interested in learning more.
- Dashni Sathasivam commented that the discussion on this subject has been robust. She suggested that as the discussion continues at a future standing committee meaning, the CAC consider what their role is given that OHS is not directly related to long-term care facilities.
- Taylor Edelmann provided an update. He and Adrienne Benjamin had a meeting with Tony Feriollo, a life coach for LGBTQ youth. He is interested in participating, though they are just trying to gage interest. Adrienne Benjamin also connected with Diana Lombardi, the Executive Director of the Trans Advocacy Coalition. She is willing to advertise the event. Taylor Edelmann thinks that the CAC still is far enough out to plan this well and he is excited to get this going. He wants to narrow down who they want to be on the panel so that it reflects both providers and folks utilizing services.

5.	Cost Growth Benchmark update	Margaret Trinity & Olga Armah
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6.	CHW Advisory Body Updates	Dr. Tekisha Dwan Everette and
	, , ,	DeLita Rose Daniels
7.	Adjournment	
	The meeting adjourned at 5:29 PM.	