

CONNECTICUT CONTINUING CARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Masonicare at Ashlar Village, Wallingford, Connecticut
Minutes of the Meeting
September 21, 2018
DRAFT

Attendance

The following members were present: Mag Morelli, Maureen Weaver, Rich Wysocki, Jonathan Fink, William Thompson, Fred Langhoff, Jennifer Rannistad, Jon Paul Venoit, and Keith Robertson

Several members of the public were also in attendance.

The meeting was called to order by at 10:10 a.m.

Minutes

The minutes of the June 15, 2018 meeting were approved.

Department of Social Services Comments

Mr. Wysocki reported that one very small Life Plan Community, PierceCare, had voluntarily withdrawn as a continuing care community. There was also an inquiry made to the Department from a potential provider about building a new nursing home in conjunction with a senior development in the eastern part of the state, but they were informed that it was not possible unless they were establishing a continuing care community.

Mr. Wysocki reported that the annual fee notice would be sent out in January. He also informed the members where on the Department's website they could find the agendas and minutes posted.

Status Update on the Resident Consumer Guide

The ConnCCRA workgroup leader, Gail Janensch, reported that the draft of the updated ConnCCRA consumer guide was being reviewed and edited. When completed it will be posted on-line rather than printed and the Advisory Committee agreed to discuss marketing and distribution ideas at a future meeting. It was also mentioned that a national consumer guide has been produced by the national resident association.

Overview of the Regulatory Oversight Functions of State Government with regard to Aging Services

Ms. Weaver reviewed the various levels of state and federal oversight that are applied to a Life Plan Community. She distributed a chart that outlined the oversight related to nursing homes, assisted living, home health care, hospice, outpatient therapy, and unlicensed home care. She also discussed in detail the residential care home setting.

Discussion of Best Practices

The Committee discussed best practices around facilitating communication between residents, management and governing bodies. Some observations were that good practices were in place in several communities prior to the bill of rights legislation being enacted. Others thought that effort had been made in some communities since the legislation to enhance transparency and communication. Most reported monthly or quarterly meetings between management and residents. There was some concern raised by a public attendee about limited communication in specific instances and the members of the Committee and public attendees offered suggestions to elicit improvement.

Mr. Wysocki mentioned that other states have been inquiring about Connecticut's updated statutes, stating that we were one of the first states to recognize the changing model of continuing care and to modify our statutes.

Around the Table Updates

Mr. Robertson reported that the Life Plan Community field was doing well nationally, even as the capital markets interest rates are rising.

It was reported that a survey conducted by Ziegler found that the average monthly fee increase nationally was 3.5%.

Mr. Fink reminded the Committee members that a FASB standard change for the non-profit life plan communities will result in some additional disclosures in the financials for communities with a December 31 year end.

New Business

The concept of the Life Plan Community “At Home” model was discussed. The ConnCCRA representatives were interested in knowing if the “at home” model was considered a CCRC and it was determined that yes, for the purpose of this Committee they are because they must register with DSS and comply with the continuing care community statutes and regulations.

Comments from the Public

A resident in attendance discussed the best practice of his community’s annual financial report to the residents.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting date will be November 16 at 10:00 a.m. and will be held at Masonicare at Ashlar Village in Wallingford. Steve Maag of LeadingAge has been invited to present on trends in the market of senior living. The Committee would like to extend an invitation to all of the Life Plan Communities to attend this presentation.

The meeting dates for 2019 will be scheduled at the next meeting. There was a request that we not schedule a meeting for June 14 or June 21.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.