

CONNECTICUT CONTINUING CARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Masonicare at Ashlar Village, Wallingford, Connecticut
Minutes of the Meeting
May 16, 2014

Attendance

Mag Morelli presided and the following members were present: Billie Alban, Jennifer Rannestad, Georgia Erickson for Daniel Robinson, Rodney Rolett, Marjorie Sullivan, Jon-Paul Venoit, Maureen Weaver, Darrell Pataska and Keith Robertson

Also present was Rich Wysocki, Principal Cost Analyst of the Department of Social Services. The meeting was open to the public.

Not attending: William Thompson and Daniel Robinson

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

Minutes

The minutes of the January 17, 2014 meeting were approved.

Change in Next Meeting Date

The Committee agreed to move the date of the next meeting to July 25, 2014 and it will be held at Masonicare at Ashlar Village.

Commissioner's Comments

Mr. Wysocki reported that the Department of Social Services (DSS) is in the process of moving its offices to 55 Farmington Avenue in Hartford, 06106. His unit will be moving on May 30th and the phone and email will remain the same. He again mentioned that DSS is going paperless and is asking for the CCRC disclosure statements to be submitted electronically.

Mr. Wysocki also reported that DSS will be reviewing the nursing home CON statutes over the summer with an expectation that DSS will introduce legislation in the 2015 legislative session to codify recommended changes. The anticipated changes will include moving the CCRC-related CON statutes into the CCRC section of the statutes. Mr. Wysocki mentioned that he could suggest other minor changes to the CCRC statutes at the same time and suggested that if the Committee wanted to recommend any changes that it should do so in the next few months. The Committee had previously discussed requesting legislative revisions to streamline statistics that must be included in annual filings.

ConnCCRA Issues Brought to the Attention of the Committee

Georgia Erickson, President of the Connecticut Continuing Care Residents Association (ConnCCRA) submitted a formal letter outlining three areas of concern for the

Committee's consideration. The three areas of concern are 1) that debt be incurred for the sole benefit of the CCRC in question, 2) that residents participate meaningfully in budget processes involving the monthly service fee, and that all monies from the monthly service fee be used exclusively for the CCRC in question, and 3) that owners inform residents well in advance of any contemplated increase in debt, change in lending bank(s), or increase in the monthly service fee; and that owners ensure that time and opportunity are available for meaningful discussion with residents prior to changes taking effect. The Committee previously discussed these issues and convened a task force to review the issues in the context of the Committee discussion and report back. Mr. Pataska, Ms. Rannestad, Ms. Morelli, and Ms. Alban were appointed to the task force.

The task force submitted the attached report that made several recommendations. Prior to discussion of the recommendations, Ms. Erickson reported on a discussion held at the ConnCCRA meeting on May 15, 2014 regarding these issues. At that meeting, the members of ConnCCRA were not satisfied with the report that was to be delivered by the task force and asked that a CCRC Resident's Bill of Rights be drafted and proposed to the state legislature.

Ms. Morelli then reviewed the task force recommendations and explained that the goal of the recommendations was to bring additional information and disclosure to CCRC residents, to provide CCRC residents the time and opportunity to respond to information that is provided by management, and to avoid the unintended consequences of passing legislation that may be detrimental to the CCRC financial model and to the future success of existing campuses. She also reported that LeadingAge CCRC members believe that it is not necessary to amend the statutes to include a bill of rights and that it would be better to address these issues in provider best practices.

The resident representatives on the Committee explained that the residents are concerned about current expansions at various communities and the debt that is being incurred by those organizations in connection with the expansions.

Several members of the Committee expressed concern specifically with the ConnCCRA request that CCRCs be restricted by requiring that all monies from the monthly service fee be used exclusively for the CCRC in question. One specific concern was that the legal structure of some communities separates the health care entities from the independent living entity, and this type of restriction would be very detrimental in these communities. Additional concerns were raised regarding CCRC campuses that are part of an Obligated Group that provides financing to a particular CCRC in the Obligated Group, such as in the case of Reeds Landing in Massachusetts. Rod Rollett emphasized that it is important to allow Obligated Group financings to take place in the future for CCRCs.

Ms. Erickson thanked the task force for the explanation of their recommendations. There was a motion to table the discussion of the ConnCCRA request until such time as

ConnCCRA sends a written report to the Committee with their suggestions for additional disclosure requirements and a bill of rights. Motion was seconded and approved.

New Business

The Committee agreed to request that the Commissioner approve the appointment of the sitting President of the Connecticut Continuing Care Resident Association (ConnCCRA) to serve as an ex officio member of the Committee.

Mr. Wysocki asked that the Committee send a letter to all of the Connecticut CCRCs encouraging them to review their disclosure statements to ensure that they are in full compliance with the statutory requirements and to remind them to submit the disclosure statements and required reporting electronically. The Committee agreed.

Audience Comments

Members of the public in attendance were given the opportunity to comment.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Committee will take place at Masonicare at Ashlar Village in Wallingford, Connecticut on July 25, 2014.

Adjournment

Ms. Morelli extended her thanks to Masonicare at Ashlar Village for hosting, and the meeting was adjourned.