

# FULTON COUNTY LONG TERM CARE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

**Date:** November 29, 2011  
**Time:** 8:30 a.m.  
**Location:** Community Health Center  
2-8 West Main Street  
Johnstown, NY 12095

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**Attendance:** Marion Balch, Chairperson, Fulton County LTC Council  
Jennifer Gilston, Fulton County RHCF  
Ann Quinn, Home Health Care Partners  
Catherine Saj, Hillcrest Spring  
Andrea Fettinger, Fulton County OFA  
Karen Clark, Home Health Care Partners  
Tracy Russo, Wells Nursing Home  
Donn Deifenbacher, Mountain Valley Hospice  
Christina Akey, Fulton County Public Health  
Mildred Ferriter, Community Health Center  
Karen Britt, Alzheimer's Association  
Mary Hamm, St. Mary's Healthcare  
Gail Marsh, Nathan Littauer Hospital Nursing Home  
Michelle Jones, Johnstown Senior Center  
Claudette Royal, Nathan Littauer Hospital & Nursing Home  
Frank Ruggiero, Fulton County Veterans Service

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The meeting was called to order at 8:35 a.m. by Chairperson, Marion Balch.

### Approval of September 20, 2011 Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the September 20, 2011 were reviewed and approved.

### Discussion re: Mental Health Panel 9/20/11

M. Balch informed the group that a questionnaire was mailed to members regarding the low attendance at the Mental Health Panel on 9/20/11. Eleven responses were received, with two individuals indicating they did not sign in, and four members indicating they had conflicts with the date and time. Comments from the questionnaires indicated that this was good information. The representative from Catholic Charities has asked that this agency be removed from the Long Term Care Council, as they do not provide many long term care services. One suggestion was made that this group combine with the Montgomery County Long Term Care Council.

Discussion ensued regarding having an information session at every other meeting. Suggested topics included home care services and transportation.

K. Britt noted that the Education Committee put significant time into the last panel presentation and wants to make sure it is beneficial to members and there is good attendance. Other topics of interest will be coordinated if members feel it will be valuable. The level of information and target audience were discussed, with the group indicating that the Long Term Care Council should first gain an understanding of the topics before bringing the information to the public. A suggestion was made to do a series of presentations, as time would not permit for addressing each item at one meeting.

It was felt that a presentation on the activities of the Medicaid Redesign Team and its impact on long term care would be valuable to the group. A suggestion was made to contact CMS or the Home Care Association regarding doing a presentation of this nature. Following discussion, it was decided to schedule a regular business meeting in January and establish a date for the next panel discussion based on availability of a speaker.

In 2012, the Long Term Home Health Care Program will become a Care Coordination Model, and people receiving community based services for more than 120 days will need to enroll in a Managed Medicaid Program. M. Ferriter explained that there will be many other changes in the Long Term Care arena, which include Accountable Care Organizations, Medicaid Health Homes, and Care Transitions.

#### By-Laws Committee Update

As previously discussed, at their request, Catholic Charities will be removed from the membership of the Long Term Care Council.

At the last meeting, Karen Clark, Shery Cooper and Donn Diefenbacher agreed to serve on the Bylaws Committee. M. Ferriter, Chairperson, asked for additional volunteers. Claudette Royal indicated she would join the committee.

Updates to the bylaws will be presented for the Council's review at the January meeting.

#### Fulton County Budget Process – Outcomes for Member Agencies

A. Fettinger informed the group that the final public hearing was held last night, and the tax levy will decrease. There is another work session this week to discuss the tax cap. Several cuts are proposed, and patients will need to be educated on the changes and informed that they will not receive the same level of services. More information on the Fulton County Budget will be available next week.

#### Future of Fulton County Long Term Care Council

Discussion ensued regarding the feasibility of merging with the Montgomery County Long Term Care Council and the advantages of doing so. The benefits of merging were identified as follows: gain strength in numbers, education, change in culture,

and support for each other. A. Fettinger suggested conducting joint meetings two times per year and evaluating if this works versus merging at this time. M. Balch suggested reviewing the bylaws to determine whether they limit a merge of this nature from occurring. M. Balch will contact Theresa Cranker, the new chairperson of the Montgomery County Long Term Care Council, to explore holding joint meetings and discuss the possibility of merging.

#### Update on AOA Grant – Andrea Fettinger and Karen Britt

K. Britt explained that grant money was awarded state-wide to the Office for the Aging and the Alzheimer's Association, with the majority of the funding disseminated to the Office for the Aging. The Alzheimer's Association will use its funds to educate family caregivers on Alzheimer's through community trainings. A. Fettinger noted that the specifics are not clearly defined, as the Alzheimer's Association is relocating from the OFA Office in Johnstown to the Johnstown Primary Care Center. K. Britt explained that the goal is to partner with doctors and hospitals to reach out to people sooner.

#### Agenda Items & Items of Interest

M. Balch requested that members forward agenda items or items of interest to her attention.

#### Significant Agency Updates

C. Akey stated that Fulton County Public Health received an immunization grant and noted that a power point presentation related to adult immunizations is available. Members were asked to contact C. Akey or Cindy Bartlett at 736-5720 if interested in seeing the presentation.

F. Ruggiero informed the group that the Fulton County Veterans Service has merged with the Fulton County OFA.

There will be a Caregivers' Panel discussion at 2 p.m. on December 6<sup>th</sup> at the Johnstown Senior Center

#### Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 a.m. on a motion by F. Ruggiero.

The next meeting will be held at 8:30 a.m. on January 17, 2012 at the Community Health Center office.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Richardson  
Administrative Assistant  
Community Health Center