

**FULTON COUNTY LONG TERM CARE COUNCIL  
MAY 3, 2011 MEETING MINUTES**

**Date:** May 3, 2011  
**Time:** 8:30 a.m.  
**Location:** Wells Nursing Home, Inc.  
201 W. Madison Avenue  
Johnstown, NY 12095

---

**Attendance:** Mildred Ferriter, Community Health Center  
Ann Quinn, Home-Health Care Partners  
Nancy Leach, Visiting Nurses Home Care  
Ramon Rodriguez, RCIL  
Connie Avery, Fulton County Central Assessment  
Marion Balch, Chairperson Fulton County LTCC  
Karen Britt, Alzheimer's Association  
Neal Van Slyke, Wells Nursing Home  
Tracy Russo, Wells Nursing Home Adult Day Health Program  
Shery Cooper, Fulton County Department of Social Services  
Margaret Luck, NLH Lifeline  
Gail Marsh, Nathan Littauer Hospital & Nursing Home  
Christina Akey, Fulton County Public Health  
Nancy DeSando, Lexington

---

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

**Acceptance of March 8, 2011 Meeting Minutes**

The minutes of the March 8, 2011 meeting were accepted by a unanimous vote.

**Publicity for LTC Council Meetings/Activities**

M. Balch informed the group that she put an announcement of today's meeting in the Gazette, Leader Herald and Recorder. Discussion ensued regarding providing local newspapers with basic information on the activities of the Long Term Care Council. The consensus of the group was that this would provide a means to increase awareness and perhaps improve attendance at meetings. N. VanSlyke made a motion to approve the dissemination of press releases containing basic information related to the activities of the Long Term Care Council to the local newspapers. The motion was seconded by C. Avery, voted and carried unanimously.

**Recruitment of New Members**

Discussion ensued regarding the declining attendance at Long Term Care Council meetings, with the group noting that attendance by organization administrators has

declined over time. M. Balch explained that one of her goals as chairperson is to bring the Council back to being a viable entity in the county. Members were asked for input on getting involvement from agency administrators, the Board of Supervisors, and new agencies. R. Rodriguez suggested that the Council identify its purpose and objectives and then make personal contacts to the non-attending members to present this information and encourage them to attend.

M. Ferriter explained that the Long Term Home Health Care Program is in possible jeopardy at this time. It has been proposed that patients receiving services in this program will be mandated to enroll in managed care insurance programs. This will result in these individuals not receiving all of the services they need. A suggestion was made to make the public and local legislators aware of these concerns.

### **Feedback on Brochures for Adult Day Care Programs and Respite Services**

Brochures for Adult Day Care Programs and Respite Services prepared by Andrea Fettinger at the Fulton County OFA were included in the pre-meeting packet. M. Balch asked council members to contact Andrea with feedback on these two items.

### **Committees**

The following committees were established:

**Bylaws** – M. Ferriter, Chairperson, committee members: S. Cooper and C. Avery

This committee will focus on developing the Council's mission and purpose and then re-define the bylaws.

**Education** – K. Britt, Chairperson, committee members: C. Akey, A. Quinn, M. Luck, T. Russo

The education committee will coordinate the mental health educational program for the September 13<sup>th</sup> Long Term Care Council meeting as an immediate objective and plan programs going forward based on input from Long Term Care Council members. K. Britt asked the group to email her with suggestions for items to be included in the September program and ideas for future programs.

It was agreed that each Long Term Care Council meeting would contain an educational session unless something else pre-empts it.

**Legislative** - The establishment of this committee was deferred.

A suggestion was made to share information from committee meetings with the members via email.

Discussion ensued regarding the feasibility of combining efforts with the Montgomery County Long Term Care Council. A. Quinn indicated that this topic was not discussed during this group's last meeting.

### Sage Commission (Function & Membership)

Governor Cuomo has appointed a group known as the Sage Commission whose purpose is to streamline government agencies. M. Balch recommended that Long Term Care Council members access the Governor's website for information on Sage Committee appointees and activities, adding that it is important to pay attention to this.

### 2011 NYS Budget

The group acknowledged that there are many uncertainties regarding this year's State budget and there is a multitude of information available. R. Rodriguez suggested sorting the information by proposed versus enacted legislation and providing it to the group. Council members were asked to send this type of information to M. Balch, who will sort it and email it to L. Richardson to disseminate to the group.

### Case Solve

Following discussion, it was suggested that case solving be done on a recurring basis as a separate meeting. Confidentiality issues would need to be addressed and this could be accomplished by obtaining a signed release prior to the meeting. It was felt that the Council's educational programs will be conducive toward increasing members' awareness of various programs and their functions.

### New York Connects

New York Connects is back in the NYS budget and next year its funds will be administered by the OFA.

### Adjournment

M. Balch thanked the group for attending.

The meeting adjourned at 9:17 a.m. on a motion by A. Quinn which was seconded by R. Rodriguez.

The next meeting will be held at 8:30 a.m. on September 13, 2011 at the Community Health Center office.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Richardson  
Administrative Assistant  
Community Health Center