

Fulton Co. Long Term Care Council

Fulton Co. Office for Aging
19 N. William St., Johnstown, NY 12095

January 16, 2014 Minutes

Present:

CHC, FCDSS & ALTC, FC Public Health, HHCP, Lexington, NLH, NLH Lifeline, STFSL, JSC, FC Vets, FCOFA/NYConnects, VNHC, Wells House, FC Community Services, SMH, FCOFA.

- Andrea opened the meeting at 8:30am, welcomed everyone and noted that she had attempted to have a joint meeting with the Montgomery Co. Long Term Care Council, but never received call back. In communicating with Karen Clark, she said she would ask again today as the MC meeting is also today. Await word back for a future joint meeting.
- Members introduced themselves.
- Members reviewed the minutes from November 2013 meeting; motion to accept minutes as written by Ernie Gagnon, second by Neal VanSlyke, motion carried.
- Discussion ensued about the Health & Wellness Event hosted by the LTC Council in November. All who attended agreed that it was a very positive networking event for the agencies and the presentations were very good. Marketing/Advertising/Getting the word out could not have been better. While there were over 50 people from the community who attended, all agreed it could have been better. Suggestions to hold one like event for agencies to learn about each other every other year and one for the community on the opposite year. More discussion will be held at future meetings. It was also suggested that maybe at the Senior Picnic, attendees could be give a punch card, and for every exhibitor they visit and get a punch to fill the card, the person could be put into a drawing for a prize. It might get people interested in other events as well.
- Agency review:
 - ⇒ Mary P. Lexington reported that use of UAS tool has been a challenge due to the state not approving access until end of December. She thanked partner agencies for all their help during this time and she looks forward to working together in the future. She explained that completing the tool takes almost 3 hours. She announced, too, that the Good Neighbor program was approved and can be formalized soon. DSS also reported that the UAS is in use, Cindi has been in the field using the laptop and CHC has been doing same, acknowledging that it is time consuming.
 - ⇒ Tracy from Wells Medical Adult Day program is also using the UAS tool, and she finds that it is challenging and tiring for participants to go through all the questioning in one sitting. She has vacancies but also has received referrals.
 - ⇒ Christina from Public Health announced the department has a new Director, Dr. Irina Gelman, who has been at work for just a week. She also announced that the community needs assessment as well as the NLH assessment results should be ready soon and a round up meeting will be held to review everything.

- ⇒ Ernie from Community Services explained that MLTC date for Fulton County is July 2014 and a chart will be shared electronically with all with the minutes of the meeting (see attachments). OD Heck is closing, MH Regional Centers of Excellence are in the mix now, DISCO, Health Homes, HARP, and more abbreviations are coming. Bottom line, it is still a confusing time for all disciplines. He also noted that the corrections/prison systems will become the new housing for mentally ill, disabled population who commit crimes.
- ⇒ Shery C. Commissioner of DSS stated that UAS is up and running, that it is not being used for TBI/NHTD, DSS has filled the part-time RN vacancy in the ALTC unit; and she confirmed the July 2014 mandatory MLTC date as stated above.
- ⇒ Maggie from NLH/Lifeline announced the use of a new auto alert button that is becoming popular; also that LL is partnering with the discharge planning with a “Go Home Safe” program whereby patients being discharged will get a LL free for one month post discharge. She also noted that Fulton Co. has had an increase in suicides, but she said she could not really pinpoint if people have died due to cutbacks on services.
- ⇒ Andrea from OFA/Youth/NYConnects reported that the agency is very busy with HEAP, HIICAP and transportation requests and that staffing is short due to an employee being on leave.
- ⇒ Neal from Wells House said a new PT was hired, Matt VanSlyke (no relation); also reported that the census has been at about 97% for the year. MLTC changes will affect NH payments and residents.
- ⇒ Michelle from JSC reported that the AARP safe driving classes are starting up at the Center, and the program has a new name “Smart Driver”; the Center is also hosting AARP tax assistance and she suggested that interested parties get an appointment soon as slots are filling up; she also said that SADC census is low and hopes agencies will refer for this valuable service.
- ⇒ Marion from STFSL reported that the group is soon to close on a piece of property which will assist them in getting future grant/partnership with developer; she said too that this meeting was helpful to her for new topics/speakers at Red Rooster.
- ⇒ NLH, Claudette, shared letters that NLH is giving all patients who may be on “Observation” status. SMH hospital is doing same. It is confusing for all including the insurance companies. Patients and agencies need to be aware that insurances will not pay for observation only days.
- ⇒ VNHC reported that the agency will be moving into the old Knitting Mill building on February 1, 2014 and the CHHA will be opening soon, as well.
- ⇒ Frank from FC Vets reported that there is a new volunteer driver, that in 2013 the agency transported 301 vets to the Albany VA and services to Vets in Fulton County amounted to approximately \$15 million worth of services.

- Future meeting days:

- April 17, 2014
- September 18, 2014
- November 13, 2014

- Meeting was adjourned at 9:30am.