

FULTON COUNTY LONG TERM CARE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date: March 5, 2013
Time: 8:30 a.m.
Location: Fulton Co. Office for Aging
19 N. William St., Johnstown, NY

Attendance: Marion Balch, Consumer/STFSL, Past Chair
Andrea Fettinger, Director, Fulton County OFA, Chair FC LTC CNCL
Christina Akey, PHE, Fulton County Public Health
Claudette Royal, Nathan Littauer Hospital, Vice-Chair, FC LTC CNCL
Karen Thayer, Executive Director, SAIL
Margaret Luck, NLH Lifeline
Ramon Rodriguez, CEO, Home Helpers and Direct Link
Neal Van Slyke, Administrator, Wells Nursing Home, Secretary, FC LTC CNCL
Valerie Osborn, Outreach, Fidelis Care at Home
Alissa LaPort, Fulton Centers
Tracy Russo, Director Adult Day Health Program, Wells Nursing
Millie Ferriter, CHC Director
Karen Glover, FC DSS/ALTC
Lyndell Falconer, Home Health Care Partners
Mary Peterson, Lexington
Frank Ruggiero, Fulton Co. Veterans Director
Susan Dunnigan, Living Resources CHHA
Liz Blodgett, Legal Aid Society/Hunger Solutions

The meeting was called to order at 8:40 a.m. by Chairperson, Andrea Fettinger.

Andrea welcomed those in attendance and thanked Marion Balch and Lynn Richardson for their excellent work during their tenure as Chair and Secretary of the Council.

Those in attendance introduced themselves and the agencies they represent.

HOT TOPICS

Legislative issues loom for all agencies around the table. Andrea offered to pen a letter on behalf of the Council that includes comments and concerns from the membership to send to the Federal Government to paint a picture of what Federal Sequestration and Cliff cuts would do to the continuum of care in Fulton Co. Some members documented a comment and others will send via email a comment to Andrea for the letter to be distributed by next week.

Discussion ensued around the idea that we are all affected by any cuts that any agency experiences. For example, it's more than asking for more State or Federal dollars, it is an economic development issue, if agencies do not get same or more funding they will not be able to serve the population they serve and it will trickle down, personnel issues, supporting the tax base in the county, etc.

UAS – DSS Update -- Karen Glover, ALTC, gave a brief overview of the UAS roll-out for Fulton Co. In a nutshell, Fulton Co. ALTC has assigned the UAS Coordinator role to Cindi Jeffers, RN. From July 2013-December 2013, Fulton County will be in training and testing of the UAS, the website, the online tools, and coordinating with providers. Fulton Co. will need to be on-line by December 2013. Karen stated that DSS/ALTC will update the Council on a regular basis of the progress in Fulton Co. Karen Thayer, RRDS, stated that Warren County is a pilot county and that the UAS is a cumbersome new tool with DOH having high expectations of what the data components will accomplish. The UAS is an on-line tool that will require RN (workers in the field) to utilize a tablet or laptop to complete and the recent users in Warren County took at least 1.5 hours to complete it. The UAS will be used only for Home and Community Based MEDICAID services authorization, including some waivers ie TBI, NHTD, CAH. The PRI/Screen will continue to be used for NH placement for at least another year. The UAS will not be used to assess for placement. More information will be shared regularly at the LTC CNCL.

Legislative Alert

Announcement for the “Meet the Legislators” breakfast on 3/15/13 was shared and offered as an opportunity to talk with local legislators.

CHC CON for CHHA expansion

Millie reported that CHC’s CON is in for review, but that she laments that it may not be reviewed in March, and she does not know when it will be seen. She hopes that DOH will approve CHC plan to expand into 5 more counties.

Frequency of meetings

By laws say a “quarterly” meeting should be convened. Those in attendance agreed to meet again on Monday, May 13, 2013, 8:30am, at the Fulton Co. Office for Aging.

Agency updates

- OFA shared flier on the upcoming Falls Prevention Event at the YMCA on 4/15/13 1-3pm.
- Lexington shared that its focus is on the pending State funding cuts and the agency is doing public education, families are advocating, and pushing forward to get the word out.
- Liz Blodgett/Legal Aid Society/Hunger Solutions explained that she is doing outreach to Seniors about SNAP (former food stamps). She is happy to say that her meetings have been very successful.
- Living Solutions has expanded into Fulton, Montgomery, and Schoharie Counties to provide CHHA & Licensed services; Susan Dunnigan will share information as the process moves forward.
- Home Helpers is still waiting for DOH to approve its applications; Ramon Rodriguez stated that he is happy to accept referrals, that they are in an additional location in an assisted living residence in Glenville, and working hard in Fulton/Montgomery counties.
- NLH just ended its DNV (Similar to JAHCO) survey and results will be in for report in May 2013.
- Centers reported that it is continuing its community outreach; Alissa LaPort explained that on 3/21/13 @ 6pm, Centers is sponsoring the Alzheimer’s Association at an information session geared toward caregivers. Alissa also reported that the recent ZUMBA event was very successful and the photos were great.
- Frank Ruggiero, Fulton Co. Veterans Director, reported on the Vets Van that transports Veterans to and from the VA Hospital Tues, Weds, & Thurs.

- **Fidelis has expanded and currently has 4200 members in 50 counties.**
- **Karen Glover, ALTC, reported that Gretchen from ALTC will be retiring and ALTC will be cross training a caseworker from the ALTC side of things to assist with PSA cases as there has been an increase in referrals, as expected. LTC referrals have remained steady.**
- **Marion Balch reported that Northville may be progressing with property to be used to build affordable senior housing in the Village. STFSL is an advocacy organization that supports this opportunity and more information will be shared in the future.**
- **RRDS, Karen Thayer reported that referrals are up in all the waiver programs since January (72 referrals inclusive of TBI and NHTD).**
- **Millie Ferriter announced an upcoming Falls Prevention Day for PT and PTA professionals to include CME's to be held in April. She also reported on Care Transitions with NLH, 17 people have been coached with only 1 re-admit. Claudette added that new diagnoses have been included- pneumonia, MI, and cellulitis.**
- **Tracy Russo asked that membership remember that MADC at Wells House is a great option for socialization and respite for caregivers.**
- **Maggie Luck asked that all members be aware of the recent news story about a resident of a senior apartment style living situation was not given CPR or other First Aid by by-standers and it took very long for ambulance to get to the person and the person expired. The recorded dispatched communication is on the news and the fact that a person at the Residence could not do CPR/First Aid on the person is a policy/procedure/regulation with that particular residence. Maggie was speaking as Coroner and she asked agencies to review their policies on CPR/First Aid by staff.**

Approval of January Meeting Minutes

The minutes were reviewed and those in attendance agreed that minutes covered satisfactorily what was discussed at last meeting.

The next meeting will be held Monday, May 13, 2013, 8:30am at Fulton Co. OFA, at 19 N. William St., Johnstown.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:45am

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Fettinger, Chair, Fulton Co. Long Term Care Council

Reviewed by Neal VanSlyke, Secretary, Fulton Co. Long Term Care Council