

Livingston County Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation
Family Forum (Family Council) Meeting Minutes

February 17th, 2021
Via Zoom Meeting

Mr. Woodruff opened the meeting with thanking everyone for attending and a brief explanation of what Family Forum is. This was our first meeting via Zoom.

LCCNR staff that attended the call: Stephen Woodruff, Eric Townsend, Kathy Crye, Jessica Werner, Barb Rauber, Bonnie Morris and Marianne Miller.

(Mr. Woodruff)

- As you are all aware back on March 12, 2020 visitation was suspended in all skilled nursing facilities last year. Our last Family Forum meeting was held just about a year ago.
- Introduction of the new Social Work Director-Jessica Werner. Jessica comes to us with her Bachelors in Social Work from Brockport, Master's in Social Work from Nazareth, with a graduate certificate in Gerontological Social Work from The Hartford Partnership in Aging Education program, and she is a Licensed Master Social Worker with NYS.
- The CNR finished the 3rd Vaccination Clinic on Feb. 17th.
 - 161 Residents received the vaccination during the three clinics facilitated within the Center under the federal vaccination program.
 - Approximately 50% of staff rec'd the vaccination
 - New residents and staff members wishing to be vaccinated will be able to receive vaccinations through our partnership with the Livingston County DOH.
- As of this meeting we have 2 residents that are positive within the Center.
- Please be reminded that the County website tracks all covid information on Nursing Homes and has the most current information; please visit this site to keep current.
- NYSDOH issued guidance recently and has approved the resumption of the following health care professionals / services within skilled nursing facilities: Podiatry, Dental (expanded beyond emergent / acute services) and Optometry.
- The CNR has resumed window visits effective Feb 17th. We are hoping to start in person visitation soon, in accordance with the current visitation guidance.
 - The CNR must have 14 days without a new positive case before we can start in person visitation. Our last employee positive as of this meeting was Feb 14. As long as all goes well, we could possibly start scheduled visitation March 1.
- The CNR has hired a Recruitment Specialist- Marianne Miller, who has been with us for a year.
- The CNR has a hired a hairdresser- Joseph Rotoli has been with us for just a few weeks. Joseph works Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. A cut, wash or set is no charge for the residents. Contact Activities at 243-7222 if you would like to get your loved one a haircut, they can get them on the schedule. Your Social Worker can also assist in this process. Joseph has been making the rounds since he has been here, so many of them could have already had a trim. Hair services do occur on the neighborhoods; as we are not able to utilize the salon due to cross contamination.

OPEN FORUM:

Discussions/Questions from families:

- If family members are fully vaccinated, are they able to come into the facility for a visit?
 - *At this time, we are still following at NYS Nursing Home visitation guidelines which do not permit visitors in the facility. That being said, things have been changing and as more people get vaccinated the regulations may change in the future.*
- Will we need to have COVID test each time we come to visit when visitation is allowed?
 - *The Livingston County Department of Health has set up testing clinics that are accessible to all county residents.*

- *The frequency in which you will be able to visit your loved ones will be influenced by the number of requests that we receive as we can only have so many visitors in a given day.*
- What if we would like to visit weekly, would we need more than one COVID test?
 - *Currently, employees and contractors who come in the facility 3 days or less are only required to test once weekly.*
- Is pooled COVID testing an option?
 - *Not at this time, likely due to specificity in regulations regarding testing.*
- Have all staff been vaccinated?
 - *At this time approximately 50% of the staff have been vaccinated.*
- Does the CNR have the ability to mandate staff to get the vaccine? And if staff refuse, can the CNR lay-off the employee?
 - *CNR staff are not mandated to receive the vaccination.*
 - *No, there is no regulation to let employees “go” if they choose not to get the vaccine. Staff at the CNR are tested once a week if they are here 3 days or less, and tested twice a week if they are here 4 days or more.*
- Since the pandemic, the CNR has been using the internet and Wi-Fi more frequently to connect residents with their loved ones, are there plans to upgrade the Wi-Fi capabilities?
 - *When the CNR built the current wireless platform, we did not foresee as much usage back then, this is now something the CNR has been looking into and will continue to have this on the list of projects to do.*
- Are there any area nursing homes open for visitation.?
 - *It is our understanding some are and many are not, however, we do not have any specific numbers on this.*
- Since recreation activities for larger groups have been suspended, what recreational activities have been created to accommodate the changes?
 - *The activities department has been able to facilitate recreation activities individually with residents; we currently have 1 iPad for every 12 residents to use throughout the Center.*
- Can larger group activities start again once all residents are vaccinated?
 - *Hopefully...however we are awaiting future guidance to be issued regarding this topic.*
- Can families help us advocate for opening up for more visitation.
 - *Yes, you can do this by reaching out to your elected officials and let them know of your concerns. In terms of advocacy, the more they hear from you...the better.*
- Family Forum participants would like monthly meetings, every third Wednesday of the month at 1:30pm.
- Many nice comments regarding the staff came through the “Chat” portion of the Zoom Meeting, thank you for all your kind words.

The CNR’s core value is to “Serve”, we are very proud of our Staff and we couldn’t ask for better employees. They have worked tirelessly and continue day after day through this pandemic.

Families appreciate all of the staff’s dedication and hard work!

Please feel free to email or call Mr. Woodruff, Eric or Kathy at any time with questions or concerns.

- swoodruff@co.livingston.ny.us
- rtownsend@co.livingston.ny.us
- kcrye@co.livingston.ny.us

Minutes of all the Family Forum (Family Council) meetings can be accessed at the link below once approved:
<https://www.livingstoncounty.us/AgendaCenter>

At this time the next meeting is set for March 17th, 2021 at 1:30 pm via Zoom. We will send out the link in the next few days to join the next meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Morris
Social Work Secretary