

## **BENEFITS OF FAMILY COUNCIL**

### **FOR FAMILY**

Orientation, support and information for families of new residents.

Ongoing mutual support – strength drawn from shared experiences.

Education and information.

A proactive role in supporting continued quality of care.

A forum to address issues of concern.

### **FOR RESIDENTS**

Family input into decisions and changes.

Family and resident activities.

Support for residents who do not have family or friends.

### **FOR STAFF & VOLUNTEERS**

Improved communication among families, staff and volunteers.

Assistance in identifying and addressing issues of concern.

Recognition of the staff and volunteers' hard work.



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*Your voice  
is important*

*to your loved one, to us,  
and to our community!  
We need and encourage your  
participation.*

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*Meetings are at the Witherell, on weekend afternoons or weekday evenings at various intervals throughout the year. Dates are posted in the Witherell lobby and emailed upon request. For more information, or to sign up for email notices, or to raise any issue, concern or suggestion, please contact any of the following:*

### **FAMILY COUNCIL OFFICERS**

Harry Monies, Chair  
hmonies@msn.com

Irene Theriot - Vice Chair  
irenetheriot@mindspring.com

Carol Lindstrum - Secretary  
LindstrumC1220@aol.com

### **Board Members**

Maryanne Chiappetta - Liaison to the Board  
Joyce Jordan  
Rose Stearns  
Sandra Chiesa  
Lillian Degler  
Nancy Chang  
Thomas Reale  
Al De Sapio

### **STAFF LIAISON**

Director of Social Services

**THE NATHANIEL WITHERELL, SNF**  
70 Parsonage Road, Greenwich, CT 06831  
Tel. 203.618.4200  
*Short-term rehabilitation and skilled nursing care*

THE NATHANIEL  
WITHERELL

# **Family Council**



Families and friends  
of Witherell residents  
working together,  
on behalf of the residents  
and the Witherell  
community.

*Together we can  
make a difference.*

Together  
we can  
make a  
difference



## **THE NATHANIEL WITHERELL FAMILY COUNCIL**

*is an independent, self-governed group of families and friends of Nathaniel Witherell residents who work together to advocate for Witherell residents, provide families with a voice in decisions that affect their loved ones, and work with the Witherell Administration and Board on behalf of the residents and the Witherell community.*

### **FAMILY COUNCIL GOALS**

- Ensure and improve the quality of life in the facility and within the sub-acute and long-term care system as a whole.
- Give families a voice in decisions that affect them and their resident loved ones.
- Support residents, other family members, staff and volunteers.
- Help facilitate communication with families/friends, staff, the Board, and the community.
- Share information and knowledge.
- Serve as advocates.

### **WOULD YOU LIKE TO MEET WITH OTHERS WHO SHARE SIMILAR EXPERIENCES?**

Any relative or friend of a Witherell resident may participate in Family Council. For relatives who live far away, Family Council can be a helpful resource. Family members of deceased residents are encouraged to continue active participation.

### **DO YOU WISH TO HAVE A VOICE IN ASSURING CONTINUED QUALITY OF CARE?**

Family Council:

provides an opportunity for family and friends of residents to come together and talk openly, in order to identify and resolve issues.

encourages suggestions and opinions, to share views on what is working well at the Witherell and what needs attention.

helps improve communication and support for residents, families and staff, to minimize reluctance or fear of speaking on one's own behalf.

enables a "united voice" that can positively impact the care, services and quality of life at the Witherell.

### **WOULD YOU ENJOY PITCHING IN WHEN YOU CAN?**

Informal committees such as Employee & Volunteer Appreciation, Activities & Programs, Communications & Public Relations, Family/Board Interface, and The Third Floor are organized as and when needed, for projects and events.



*A cooperative spirit and effort exist among the Family Council, the Resident Council, and the Administration, Staff and Board.*

## **THE RIGHTS OF FAMILY COUNCILS IN THE U.S.**

*The 1987 Nursing Home Reform Act guarantees the families of nursing home residents a number of important rights to enhance a loved one's nursing home experience and improve facility-wide services and conditions. Key among these rights is the right to form and hold regular private meetings of an organized group called a family council.*

*Facilities certified to receive Medicare and Medicaid funds must provide a meeting space, cooperate with the council's activities, and respond to the group's concerns.*

*Nursing facilities must appoint a staff advisor or liaison to the family council, but staff and administrators have access to council meetings only by invitation.*

*While the Federal law specifically references "families" of residents, close friends of residents can and should be encouraged to play an active role in family councils, too.*

**42 CFR sec.483.15(c); Public Law 100-203, Social Security Act**