

**The Nathaniel Witherell SNF  
Town of Greenwich CT  
Family Council General Meeting**

Date: Sunday, October 26, 2008

Location: Auditorium

Call to Order: Harry Monies, Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m. Over 50 family members, residents, staff, and guests were in attendance. A light lunch was served. Harry invited Governor Rell to attend this meeting, but she declined due to the major economic issues facing the state. He distributed a letter from her office. Family Council Board members and "Big Jim", President of the Resident's Council, were recognized.

Family Council Revised Brochure: Irene Theriot, Vice Chair, distributed a draft of the revised brochure and thanked Susan Welsh for working with the agency to establish new graphic standards for the brochure. Relatives or friends of a resident are automatically members of TNW Family Council.

Executive Director's Report: Bill Kowalewski said that SLAM of Glastonbury was chosen as architect for Project Renew. They designed the recently renovated physical therapy department in TNW. An RFP (request for proposal) will be sent out for a Construction Manager at Risk, which means the firm will be obliged to complete the renovations on-time and on-budget. Building (ground breaking) is projected to begin in July 2010.

Bill said that he and his staff have visited seven sites which are moving to a Person Centered Care model. He stressed that both PCC culture and the building must be a "blend" or integrated for success. These visits will serve to develop a new model of care here at the Witherell.

Bill introduced two new staff members: Christine Zuccarelli, Dietician and Justine Vaccaro, Director of Social Work. Justine was unable to attend the meeting.

A family member asked about financial conditions and Bill indicated that revenue is better than budget and that the TNW Board is working on a long range financial model. Both the Sept. and Oct. Executive Director's Report were distributed to all present.

Guest Speakers:

Carol Lindstrum, Secretary, introduced the following speakers:

*Reverend Heather Parkinson-Webb, Director of Pastoral Care, TNW* who spoke about "Providing Spiritual Assistance to Residents". She stressed the impact of visitor's presence on site and how it affects residents and staff, suggesting that a "southern hospitality style" approach can help residents feel less isolated, more in the mainstream and emphasized the power of listening. Reverend Heather left cards and book marks for family members to contact her or her staff.

*Carol Kellogg, Prevention Practitioner,* stressed the importance of getting a flu shot annually. Volunteers and residents will begin to be vaccinated on 10/29 and staff on 10/30. Family members should sign consent forms for residents to be given the inoculation. She also discussed the importance and history of hand-washing as a sanitation and illness prevention method.

*Sally Van Leeuwen, Volunteer Coordinator,* with over 17 years experience at TNW, said that while over 170 volunteers assisted with tasks such as resident transport, staffing the gift shop, piano playing, game playing, watering plants, etc. Additional volunteers are welcome--no prior training required! The typical volunteer is a retiree, but that is morphing into a younger/teenager volunteer due to service requirements in schools.

New Business: Chris Thurlow, Vice Chair of TNW Board, discussed plans to make the rose garden more accessible and the proposed Friendship Garden which will include a recreational component for those with dementia. Friends of TNW are raising monies for this and plans include a 12/6 & 12/7 Holiday Boutique on site. She also introduced Scott Franz who is running for the Connecticut Senate who indicated his support for TNW.

Meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m. The next meeting will be held in January 2009.

*Carol Nizlek Lindstrum, Secretary*

