

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

Date: Sunday, January 25, 2009

Location: Auditorium

Call to Order: Harry Monies, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m. Approximately 50 family members, residents, staff, and guests were in attendance. A light lunch was served. He introduced Family Council Board members and "Big Jim", President of the Resident's Council.

Family Council Mission: Irene Theriot, Vice Chairman, read the Family Council Mission Statement which appears in the Family Council brochure. The mission is to ... "protect and improve the quality of life for residents while providing families with a voice in decisions that affect loved ones." She noted that relatives or friends of a resident are automatically members of TNW Family Council.

Executive Director's Report: Bill Kowalewski, Executive Director, showed a video from Pioneer Network, an umbrella organization for the movement from a task-oriented facility culture to a culture honoring the individual. He stressed migrating to such a culture would be a "journey". Bill and TNW Director of Nursing will present the concept to the TNW Board Monday, January 26<sup>th</sup>.

CMS 5 Star Rating-Director of Nursing:

Lynn Bausch, Director of Nursing, spoke about the recent CMS 5-Star rating TNW received. It is the only nursing home in the Greenwich/Stamford area to earn the top designation. This is a new rating system which Medicare has launched. Details can be viewed at [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov). The ratings are based upon a) the annual state survey, b) staffing and, 3) quality of care issues. A 3-Star rating is an average rating. TNW received a 5-Star rating.

Lynn announced that Bea Laverick, Patient Care Coordinator on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, is retiring and will be replaced by Jane Kennelly. She reminded attendees that any nursing concerns should be initially addressed with the Head Nurse on the unit.

Project Renew (Building Committee):

Al DiSapio, Family Council Liaison to the Building Committee, introduced Andy Fox, Chairman of Project Renew Town Building Committee. Andy was an EVP in a construction firm and served on the building committees of the Stanwich School, Greenwich Country Day School and Greenwich Adult Day Care.

He said that SLAM of Glastonbury was chosen as architect for Project Renew. An RFP (request for proposal) will be sent out for a Construction Manager at Risk, which means the firm will be obligated to complete the renovations on time and on budget. He estimated that by June the design should be completed and further approvals and funding processes will follow. Andy estimated the entire project will take 24-36 months. Project Renew will be completed in modules of 24 "beds" at a time. The objective is to design the building to fit the person-centered care model.

Senior Tax Relief:

Kate Brennan, Vice Chair of the Commission on Aging and President of the Greenwich Bar Association, was introduced by Ruth Ann Honcz to speak about Greenwich's Senior Tax Relief Program. Residents age 65 and over who are property owners who earn \$60K or less and meet additional eligibility guidelines may be eligible for tax relief.

She suggested that seniors who think they may qualify should contact the Tax Assessor's Office. Note: The Senior Center also has literature about this newly revised program.

Family Council:

Harry Monies announced that Ruth Ann Honcz is the new FC Treasurer, two individuals (E. Armistead & R. Soper) have been recruited to serve as volunteers on the FC and that four new committees have been formed: Bylaws; Fundraising; Memory Garden; and Memorial. The latter will be a committee under the direction of Reverend Heather to honor residents who have passed away who have no known survivors.

Meeting adjourned at 2:53 p.m. The next meeting will be held Sunday, April 26, 2009.

*Carol Nizlek Lindstrum, Secretary*

