

**Commission on the Aging
4 Brush Hill Road
New Fairfield, Ct 06812**

**Meeting Minutes
Tuesday March 23, 2021
Zoom Meeting 7:30pm**

Meeting Moderator: Paul Gouveia

Members in Attendance: Anita Brown, Kathy Hull, Cindy LaCour, Janet Loya, Julie MacMillan and Maureen Salerno. Lisa Zustovich took the meeting minutes.

Pledge of Allegiance

Guest Speaker

Regional Hospice Representatives- Debbie Ryan & Cheryl Koeber-
Discussing criteria for admission to the center and Medicare coverage
Debbie and Cheryl discussed the 4 levels of Hospice care.

Routine Level of Care- Most commonly used, 98% of hospice days are Routine Level of Care.

Continuous Level of Care- Person stays in their own home, can receive 8-24hrs of care.

Respite Care- This has to be done in a hospital, skilled hospice unit or skilled nursing facility.

This is a 5 day/4 night benefit that has no cost at all to the beneficiary. There are strict guidelines. It is a short term stay due to caregiver unavailability or breakdown with the intent of coming up with a plan to address the needs of the patient. Examples are: caregiver gets sick, goes on vacation, has an event like a wedding to attend.

General In-Patient (GIP) Level of Care-This is a higher level of care such as pain management, wound care, complex care. Debbie said many of their patients in GIP level of care come from the hospital. These patients must have on-going evaluations several times a day, documenting that this level of care is needed. This level of care should not generally be needed for more than 5 days. Medicare requires discharge planning basically from day one.

Private insurance handles levels of hospice care differently than Medicare.

Also discussed was Medicare and restrictions regarding payment for room and board depending on the level of hospice care.

There was a discussion regarding the challenges of treating patients while dealing with the rules of Medicare and Medicaid.

Long-term care insurance discussed.

Discussed the use of volunteers and the benefit both in the home and in the facilities.

The Commission thanked Debbie and Cheryl for attending the meeting and speaking with them.

Correspondence/Announcements

None

Motion to approve Minutes

Julie MacMillan made a motion to approve the 2-23-21 meeting minutes as written, 2nd by Janet Loya, all in favor. **Approved**

Old Business

None

New Business

Nominations for Outstanding Senior of the Year- Maureen asked the Commission to think about nominees for this year's Outstanding Senior of the Year.

Sub-Committee Reports

Housing-No discussion

Senior Center Listening Session- no listening sessions this month

Taxes-No discussion

Transportation-No discussion

Senior Center Report

Kathy Hull said a Choices Program representative would be unable to attend the COA evening meeting in April.

The Commission discussed the misleading advertising regarding supplemental health insurance. Maureen said she would try to contact the Attorney General and the Better Business Bureau regarding this.

Public Comment

None

Adjourn

Cindy LaCour made a motion to adjourn the meeting, 2nd by Julie MacMillan, all in favor.

Adjourned