

DELAWARE NURSING HOME RESIDENTS QUALITY ASSURANCE COMMISSION
Herman M. Holloway, Sr. Campus, Main Bldg., Room 301
1901 N. duPont Highway, New Castle, DE
Meeting of March 9, 2004

MINUTES

Commission Members Present: Patricia C. Engelhardt; Karen E. Gallagher; Vicki L. Givens; Joseph M. Letnaunchyn; Rep. Pamela S. Maier; Sen. Robert I. Marshall; Thomas P. McGonigle, Esq. (Chairman); Brian L. Posey; Yrene E. Waldron.

Commission Members Absent: Thelma G. Mayer; Dr. McKinley Wardlaw, Jr.

Others Present: Sandra Dole, President (Delaware Council of Activity Professionals); Tim Hoyle (Ombudsman LTC DSAAPD); Victor Orija, Admin. (DSAAPD); Mary Rodger (Quality Insights of Delaware); June Valentine, Director (DE Assoc. of Homes & Services for Aging); Laura Waterland, Esq., Sr. Staff Attorney (Disabilities Law Program); Katie McMillan, Deputy Director; Mitzi Murphy and Joan Reynolds, Staff Support (Division of Long Term Care Residents Protection).

1. Call to Order

Chairman McGonigle called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the January 13, 2004 Meeting

The minutes from January 13th were approved with the following addition to Section 3.a.2, "Organize visitations- Commission Members to visit nursing homes, people with disabilities living in the community and assisted living facilities with a follow-up report to the Commission."

3. Discussion of NHRQA Commission goals for 2004

Chairman McGonigle asked Commission members to send e-mails with goals and priorities that they want to add to the present list as it appears in the Minutes of January 13, 2004.

Mr. Hoyle gave members a document just released entitled, "US Health and Human Services Study: State Experiences with Minimum Nursing Staff Ratios for Nursing Facilities". This is a study to get answers from key stakeholders now that minimum staffing laws have been implemented in several states. He presented just the findings focusing on the State of Delaware from the November 2003 study. Questions pertaining to total methodology in the complete report are found at: <http://aspe.hhs.gov/daltcp/reports/8state.htm#finding>

Mr. Hoyle spoke of the September 2003, hurricane that devastated connections to power and electricity. The Public Service Commission (PSC) has looked at Conectiv's response to that storm and how it affected special needs populations of those residing in long term care and assisted living. Personnel from LTC Ombudsman will be attending public hearings on April 21 and April 22, 2004, in the Public Service Commission Room. The primary concern is for nursing homes and assisted living facilities to be prioritized for reconnection.

Mr. Hoyle gave members a recent publication entitled, "Delaware Cares About Your Well Being". This brochure is designed for those persons not currently in nursing homes or assisted living who need help in deciding which facilities are most appropriate for their needs. Plans for distribution include hospitals, Medicaid offices, senior centers and senior high-rise buildings.

4. Old Business/New Business

S.B. 189 - Chairman McGonigle asked members to read S.B. 189 and the comments from letters included in their March packets. This material will be discussed at the April meeting with recommendations made to the General Assembly as to the Commission's view of S.B. Bill 189.

Mr. Letnaunchyn (DHCA) said his association and Ms. Waldron's are doing a workforce projection looking at the needs in hospitals, home health care, and long term care through 2010 starting with 2003 as a base.

5. Public Comment

Ms. Dole introduced a new publication by Thomas Edward Gass entitled, "Nobody's Home - Candid Reflections of a Nursing Home Aide".

6. The next meeting will be held on April 13, 2004, at Herman M. Holloway, Sr., DHSS Campus, Main Building, Room 301 at 10 a.m.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:53 a.m.

Final Minutes approved April 13, 2004