

Chester Village Family Council

Minutes: February 22, 2023

26 participants

Meeting Agenda

1. Cynthia's Update

There are no changes in visitor restrictions and screening, testing and masking will remain in place until at least the end of the flu season (probably April).

Cynthia wanted us to know that this update is dealing with not only Covid, but also other respiratory infections such as RSV, Flus, and common colds. There was a Covid outbreak in both units on the 4th floor for the entire month of October with 42 residents and 5 staff infected. Most infections were minor due to the excellent vaccine uptake we have experienced. Since so many residents were involved, they were not quarantined in their rooms. Although there were 2 deaths attributed to Covid by Public Health standards, they actually occurred after the infection had cleared and were the result of the residents' frailty and other factors not related to Covid. In December, there was another Covid outbreak involving only 2 residents in Topaz. Our daily screening and testing still finds the occasional positive case...Covid has not gone away yet.

In January and February, both Sapphire and Topaz experienced common cold outbreaks. Because these outbreaks are considered resolved 5 days after the first symptoms are noted or after 24 symptom-free hours, they are not as isolating as Covid outbreaks. Cynthia reminded us to use these resolution guidelines for our selves and not visit residents until 5 days after the start of cold symptoms or 24 hours symptom-free....don't visit if you are not feeling well!

There are plans coming next month to allow visitors to eat a meal with a resident. These will be assigned to a controlled area and we will receive an e-blast from Chester with the details when the plan has been finalized. Group gatherings will still not be allowed.

As of Nov. 21st, there were 15 frontline staffing positions (4 RPNs and 11 PSWs) added to our roster as per the Government's 4-year plan to increase the number of care hours allotted to each resident to 4 hours daily. The increased staffing at that time resulted in a great deal of movement among staff members (e.g. switching from part-time to full-time hours) and the number of agency staff required was a real challenge. In April, the second input of funding will occur, allowing the addition of 9 PSWs (both full and part-time). This will give us 4 PSWs for each of the day and evening shifts, plus 2 PSWs in each area overnight. Though healthcare staffing is very difficult right now in all sectors, Gina has been able to hire 16 PSWs and 3 RPNs in recent weeks and she is confident that she will be able to hire these new PSWs in

April. The goal for April is to require agency staff only when necessary and not on a regular rotation.

Cynthia told us that Kelly Zhang has resigned from her nurse-practitioner role and Gina has managed to recruit a new one to start as of March 6th. Though we are funded for 2 nurse practitioners, they are very difficult to find. We were also told that Dr. Adno retired at the end of January and Dr. Birmingham is working on finding a replacement. He has an excellent candidate lined up to start in July...one who is younger and hopefully will stay with us for a lengthy period as Dr. Birmingham has.

A family member asked about whether there was someone from the management team in the building during the weekend and Cynthia answered that senior managers take turns being on call for the weekends...they spend at least 2 hours on site and are available by phone from 5pm Friday to 9am Monday. There is also someone from Gina's nursing managers team on site during the days.

2. MouvMat Presentation

Dr. Charlene Chu and her research assistant, Haniya Bharucha, spent a few moments outlining the study that they are hoping to conduct with 20 Chester residents in the near future. The team from U of T's Faculty of Nursing has invented a game with the objective of keeping residents socially, cognitively, and physically active to improve their quality of life. The 20 residents chosen to participate will take part in supervised sessions three times a week for six weeks in small groups (2-4 people per group). Morgan (Activation Manager) is excited about this opportunity and will be happy to give you more information if you are interested in having your resident involved.

3. Election Update

Askari and Lynne gave us the procedure to be used for nominating a family member for either of the 2 positions (Chairperson or Secretary). You will find the details of the nomination procedure in the attached Word document. This document has also been posted throughout the Home and will be e-blasted to all family members. You are encouraged to actively participate in this important election by making a nomination or volunteering to run for one of the positions. The future success of Chester's Family Council depends on everyone having a voice!

Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 29th at 6:00pm