



**Detroit Long Term Care System Change Task Force  
Nursing Home Management  
Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** Tuesday, January 13, 2009  
**Time:** 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.  
**Place:** West Oaks Senior Care and Rehab Center  
22355 Eight Mile Road  
Detroit, MI 48219

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Betsy Rust, Co-Chair  
Elaine Hearn  
John Barton  
John Sczomak  
Sandra Booker  
Shan Johnson  
Toshia DeWeever  
Carl Cottrill

**MEMBERS EXCUSED**

Jerry Gumbleton, Co-Chair  
Kelsey Schwartz  
Kim Pinckney  
Bettye Cogburn  
Elsie Parker  
Patricia Farmer

**STAFF**

Karen Watson, Facilitator  
Rachel McLaury, Recorder

**CALL TO ORDER**

Betsy Rust called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

**MATERIAL DISTRIBUTED**

Meeting Minutes—November 24, 2008

**REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Elaine Hearn made a motion to accept the minutes of November 24, 2008, seconded by Carl Cottrill. Motion carried.

**WELCOME & INTRODUCTION**

Ms. Rust welcomed all members.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Karen Watson updated all members on the next full task force event. The next event is the Long Term Care Policy Forum taking place March 27, 2009 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Sacred Heart Major Seminary.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. Rust asked subcommittee members to review key focus areas discussed at prior subcommittee meetings. The first key focus area discussed was family councils. Carl Cottrill administrator of West Oaks Senior Care and Rehab Center explained that many residents' family members do not have interest or do not want to be involved in family council meetings. Elaine Hearn with Citizens for Better Care work with many nursing homes in the City of Detroit that have active family councils but some of the councils are not beneficial and lack structure. A major problem is caused by family members who are involved in the council meetings. Ms. Hearn suggested that family councils could be extremely beneficial if they have structure and a defined mission, purpose and goal. Ms. Hearn explained that Citizens for Better Care have resources including guidelines and fact sheets with information on how to start a family council. Ms. Hearn stated that functional family councils can improve and lower the number of citations within the facility.

The next key focus area discussed were resident surveys. Ms. Hearn explained as a result of the closure of St. Michaels Nursing Home, she had the opportunity to talk with many residents. As a result many residents 65 years or older feel stuck in the nursing home but attempt to make the best of the situation. On the other hand residents 65 years or younger are defiant and do not follow the rules and regulations of the facility. The downfall is that some of these younger residents do need basic nursing care but at the same time causes unmanageability within the facility. Subcommittee discussed reviewing the possibility of different levels of care within a nursing facility including basic care and skilled nursing care.

Another topic discussed is lack of housing and no viable solutions of transitioning the younger nursing home residents back into the community. Some of the barriers these residents face are:

- no affordable housing options
- don't meet the qualifications for Medicare, Medicaid, or food stamps
- have no financial assistance
- no resources

The subcommittee would like to review housing options or transitional housing options.

The final topic reviewed was staffing. Many facilities experience a shortage of nurses, lack in quality of work and patient care, and a varying degree of CNA's training and skills. The subcommittee discussed the need for more education with staff, better CNA supervision especially during the night shift, better communication between nurses and CNAs. There is a high turnover of staff especially for the administrators and director of nursing position. This may be due to burn out and overwhelming state survey. The subcommittee discussed that the administrator plays an important role in setting the atmosphere and environment.

**AGENDA/BUILDING & NEXT STEPS**

Ms. Rust asked all subcommittee members to present three regulatory regulations that affect Nursing Homes in the City of Detroit. The next meeting is scheduled for February 10, 2009 from 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. at Plante & Moran.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Rachel McLaury

*Moving Towards Enhancing the Quality of Care*