

CONSUMER INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE
June 9, 2017
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM, UNITED WAY OF LONG ISLAND, DEER PARK, NY

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Nancy D. Co-Chair
Arthur B.
Clara C.
Marc E.
James H.
Kevin M.
Joseph P.
Angie P.
Robert S.
James C.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Lance M. Co-Chair
Keith A.
Traci S.
Ed M.
Glenn L.
Juanita C-F
Clement W.
Margret H.

Wendy A.

GUESTS

Victoria Osk, Esq.

STAFF:

Georgette Beal
JoAnn Henn
Stephanie Moreau

I. Welcome/Introductions

Nancy D. called the meeting to order at 10:10 am. She welcomed everyone and introductions were made. There was a moment of silence to remember those living and those whom we have lost.

II. Addressing Consumer Concerns and Questions-

At the request of consumers, Ms. Victoria Osk from Nassau-Suffolk Law Services agreed to meet with CIC members to address their concerns. Consumer concerns range from eligibility to housing.

Possible qualifications changes, coupled with insurance concerns, and the uncertainty of funding, all of which could result in the loss of benefits have prompted this presentation.

Disability Review letters-

Disability reviews are not uncommon. However, a number of consumers have expressed concern about the disability review letters they have received, reporting that these letters are very official looking, with a stamp (in the middle of the letter) stating that the recipient is required to be available at a certain date and time to answer questions.

Some expressed concern about being forced to reenter the workplace, when they are not well enough to do so. The possible loss or reduction of benefits is also worrisome.

Ms. Osk stated that it is important not to ignore these letters and to comply. If you are unavailable at the time stated on the letter, contact to reschedule. She stressed the importance of staying in treatment and continue medications. (Even if the TC Count is low there are still other

manifestations of the disease). If consumers are experiencing depression and anxiety, they are encouraged to seek treatment to help deal with these issues. Medical, vocational and legal providers are available if needed at any hearings.

Ms. Osk reported to the committee that no one has lost benefits as a result of this disability review.

Insurance issues- While acknowledging the rising concern about health care, given the current administration, nothing definite has been decided and no changes have been implemented.

Housing- Affordable and available housing on Long Island continues to be an issue. As costs increase and resources dwindle, what housing opportunities exist for consumers as many fear homelessness?

Ms. Osk informed the committee members about E5 housing that is available. (E5 is a computer designation for the HIV related housing application as a rental supplement).

There is an application process with annual recertification. Applicant needs to be financially eligible. There is a formula to calculate the rent, all resources are reviewed, and E5 can still be applied for if receiving SSD and SSI. Ms. Partap expressed frustration that many of the SSI employees are unaware of E5 and she actually had to tell them about it

Housing discrimination or harassment due to status is illegal. Any complaints should be brought to the attention of the Human Resources Commission of Human Rights.

Section 8 housing is another option, and cost is limited to 30% of income.

From this discussion it is apparent that there need to be more communication and information about resources and any changes that may have an impact.

Ms. Osk ended her presentation by encouraging those present to contact Nassau Suffolk Law Services and make an appointment should they have any additional concerns or problems.

III. Approval of April 14, 2017 Minutes-

The minutes were approved without correction. A motion was made by Ms. Egel and seconded by Mr. Pirone.

7 Approved 0 Opposed 3 Abstentions

IV. Cab Updates/Regional Trends-

- Northwell CART is having a car wash fundraiser on Saturday, June 24, 2017 from 8am-3pm at 852 Conklin Street in Farmingdale.
- Thursday's Child has plans to create a CAB. One of the topics being considered is long term survivors (those living with the disease for 10+ years).

V. Member Spotlight

The Planning Council website is almost complete. Member Spotlight is a section on the website to highlight our Planning Council members. To that end, a short bio, photo, and signed media release are needed. Mr. Joe Pirone, current Planning Council Chair will be the first member spotlighted on the new and improved website. A questionnaire will be sent to all members, to facilitate maintain consistency. The website should be up and running by September Planning Council meeting.

VII. Other Business

There was no other business

VII. Announcements/Adjournments

- June 29, 2017 is graduation day for those completing the Peer Certification Program. There will be 45 graduates and there are currently 360 individuals participating in the program. Mr. Santamaria stressed the importance of continuing to take classes to update your certification, after you have completed the program. Congratulations to graduates, Ms. Nancy Duncan, Ms. Traci Shelton, and Mr. Robert Santamaria.
- NSUH CART Client Advisory Board is having a summer picnic on Saturday, July 8, 2017 12pm-4pm. Eisenhower park Section J. Friends and family welcome. RSVP (required) Barbara Martens. Flyers are available.
- Save the Date community forum flyers were distributed to the committee. The first forum will be hosted by LGBT Network, Bay Shore on Wednesday evening June 21, 6:30pm-7:30pm.
- Long Island Pride is the weekend of June 9-11 at Long Beach, NY

A motion was made by Angie P. and seconded by Clara C. to adjourn June 9, 2017 Consumer Involvement Committee meeting. **All in Favor-Motion carried**