

August 10, 2007

Dear ADRC Partner:

Thank you for your participation in the first planning meeting to develop Aging and Disabilities Resource Centers (ADRCs) in Connecticut held on June 19, 2007. I sincerely appreciate you taking time from your busy schedules to collaborate with the Aging Services Division (State Unit on Aging) on this exciting initiative. Our speakers, Greg Case and Carrie Blakeway, provided valuable information for us to consider in the process of establishing these centers in our state. Their information along with the ideas participants shared at our forum offer an excellent foundation from which we can make positive changes in our long-term-care service delivery system.

Attached is a report that highlights our first meeting's accomplishments and summarizes participants' feedback. I am thrilled by the tremendous response we received from participants who agreed in various ways to continue to work with us to bring this concept to fruition.

Since our last meeting, the State Unit on Aging has learned about a new and exciting grant opportunity. We began working on this grant opportunity offered by the Administration on Aging (AoA) for nursing home diversion projects. The intent of this grant is to develop strategies to modernize and transform the funds states presently receive from AoA into flexible, consumer-directed service dollars that support long-term-care rebalancing efforts. This grant complements our efforts in establishing an ADRC and hopefully will provide an opportunity to pilot a center in one region of the state.

We have also learned during this past session that the state legislature generously added financial support to the fine work that the CHOICES program has been providing to older people with benefits counseling and Medicare Part D. They also added statutory language that defines responsibilities for the CHOICES program revolving around long-term care counseling. The Aging Services

Division (Stat Unit on Aging) also received an additional influx of dollars for the Alzheimer's Respite Program during the session.

This is all great news because as we all know, establishing ADRCs in Connecticut will require hard work, commitment, expertise from a number of disciplines, and of course, funding from various governmental and private sectors. Working together I believe we can achieve a long-term-care service delivery system that offers consumers choice and one that is truly accessible for all persons with disabilities.

We plan to have our next meeting in the fall at which time I look forward to working with you in designing how Connecticut's residents obtain assistance with their long-term-care choices. We will be contacting you in the near future through our e-mail list and ask that you choose one of the workgroups to help us create this system.

Sincerely,

Pamela A. Giannini, MSW
Director
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Attachments

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