

REMARKS BY NPMORRILL AT ELDERCARE MTG. ON 2.27.25

This brief report amplifies the agenda material.

The Legislative Subgroup (which currently includes Pat Rameriz, Larry Hurst, Eileen Conway, Denise Angelini and Dan Seeger) has not met in some time but I trust what I am going to say is faithful to what we have discussed in the past.

Those of the Eldercare Discussion Group again today have a draft Bill of Rights that we hope will amend the current Pa. law for Independent Living Residents in CCRCs. I will remind you that this draft reflects a review of many resources including the NaCCRA model Bill, the recommendations by the US Senate Select Committee on Aging hearing in 2010, and the study of over 20 other states' current Bills of Rights.

The implementation of this Eldercare Bill of Rights effort has always assumed we would educate and share with our residents, including the PVRA, and to tell Management about our work. Ways to do this could be by holding information sessions, by reporting at Community Meetings, by meeting with Management, by writing a Bulletin article, and other ways I am sure.

Meantime, we have simultaneously been trying to get PARCR to take the lead in moving a Bill of Rights initiative forward. PA RCR has a Legislative Committee, has a Bill of Rights in its strategic plan, has a professional lobbyist as VP of their Board (with whom we met in September and shared our work), and has the statewide ability to reach the CCRCs in Pennsylvania. My gut instinct guess is that PARCR will end up by encouraging all its member communities to propose adoption at each community level of a Bill of Rights for its independent living residents, and PARCR may or may not use our draft as a guide, but that PARCR will avoid any statewide legislative effort.

Concurrently, we also have been hopeful of finding out if the Pa. regulator of independent living at CCRCs, the PA Insurance Department, is receptive to a PA Bill of Rights. We infer from things said by its chief staffer that it seems to be, but she is not willing to share at least yet whether it can be accomplished by their regulatory action or if they would feel such an amendment would need passage by the Pa. Legislature.

So.....in my thinking, the Pennswood Bill of Rights effort by the Eldercare Group is at a crossroads of decision-making about next steps, if any.

There is an opportunity to meet with a local Representative, Perry Warren, who now chairs the PA House Insurance committee, to ask for his assistance/guidance in moving this effort along.

But I urge that before Pennswood residents speak with a legislator we do two things:

- 1) Decide if we have the person power and the stamina to work on this for what could probably be at least 2 years; (who?) If we do, then
- 2) We should tell Pennswood residents and management so they are not blindsided by information coming from a source other than us.

Subsequent to those 2 decisions, I have some thoughts about what options we have for a Perry Warren ask:

- a) Ask him to arrange a meeting with Karen Veronikis and the Commissioner of Ins. and some constituents to discuss a Bill of Rights;
- b) Hold a hearing in PA (with PARCR's help???) re. topic for all CCRCs in PA invited
- c) Get his suggestion for possible colleague Representatives with interest – who might introduce bill and get cosponsors (surely there is a Representative with friends or relatives in a CCRC)
- d) Ask his staff to do research on it (i.e. would amendment be revenue-neutral)
- e) Ask him to refer Bill to LBFC for study
- f) Hold Ins. Committee hearing once Bill of Rts. is introduced

Another way to proceed would be to educate the Pennswood community as I outlined, and then prepare a request that the Corporate Board pass a Bill of Rights for independent living residents at Pennswood.

Thank you for your attention. I look forward to the discussion about the 2 decisions I have suggested.