

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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Contact: Joel Keefer  
(716) 753-4672

## **Long Term Care Council Receives Substantial Grant Award**

*Funds will be used to prepare for future challenges to health care system*

Mayville: -- The current state of health care is fluctuating, and these changes are stressing an already burdened system. With challenges looming ahead, a group based in Chautauqua County was successful in securing a grant to help plan on how to deal with the future of our health care system.

Chautauqua County Executive Gregory J. Edwards has announced that the Chautauqua County Long Term Care Council (CCLTCC) received an \$85,000 grant that will be put towards planning on how to realign services for more community oriented Long Term Care (LTC).

"The CCLTCC, which is a public/private partnership, is warning that there is a pending 'crisis of care' precipitated by a mismatch of existing services to emerging community needs," Edwards said, "This reduction of institutional care has prompted providers to come together to work towards growing a sustainable, integrated rural health network of long term care providers."

In addition to some members of the Council, the Community Health Foundation of Western and Central New York, Heritage Ministries and the County of Chautauqua Industrial Development Agency all helped in funding the grant application.

"Chautauqua County competed with over 80 other applicants across the United States to receive this \$85,000 grant," Edwards said. "In the end, we were one of only 20 to be awarded these funds. Receiving this grant also opens up the door to other grant opportunities in the future."

The Long Term Care Council, which was formed by Chautauqua County, has been given the task of taking a proactive look at how the County serves individuals of all ages who require long term care. The council is composed of county, community and consumer partners, and has been charged with analyzing the current system, identifying service gaps and making recommendations to promote a comprehensive and seamless delivery of care and supports for Chautauqua County residents.

Chautauqua Adult Day Care was lead agency in the effort to obtain the grant. Frank Bercik, Executive Director of Chautauqua Adult Day Care, said this planning grant will allow Chautauqua County to establish the "Chautauqua Model-Long Term Care", an innovative, person-centered strategy to achieve efficiencies, expand access, coordinate and improve the quality of essential health care/LTC services, and strengthen the rural health care system as a whole.

"We envision an integrated continuum of care including long and short-term home care, primary care, acute care, palliative care, assisted living, adult homes, short-term rehabilitation, and skilled nursing facilities," said Bercik.

By 2011, the Chautauqua County Long Term Care Council plans to have defined at least three strategies to adapt for service delivery. They also plan to develop a long term care needs assessment and gaps report, a forecast of the needs of the county's aging and disabled population, and establish an innovative LTC model and plan for Chautauqua County.

Network Members include Chautauqua Adult Day Care Centers, Inc., five Chautauqua County Human Services Departments (OFA, DSS, DOH, MH, Veterans), the Chautauqua County Home, Lutheran Social Services (LTC), Catholic Health St. Vincent's (LTC), Aspire WNY (disabilities), Southwestern Independent Living Center (disabilities), Chautauqua County Health Network (4 hospitals and 70 primary care providers) and six consumers representing disabled children, adults, and seniors.

Long Term Care Council Chair Marie Carrubba said the CCLTCC is representative of Chautauqua County and reflective of the ethnic and economic diversity of the service area population.

"The CCLTCC plans to meet several times in the upcoming months, and we hope to report back on our progress in the very near future," Carrubba said.

The CCLTCC will use the information it gathers over the next 9 months to problem solve at the local level and make recommendations in the development of, and ongoing improvement of the "Single Point of Entry for Long-Term Care Services" (also called Chautauqua County New York Connects), to advance changes in long term care access, increase community supports to meet identified needs and develop plans for how existing barriers can be overcome.

People of all ages with long-term health care needs can call the CCNY Connects helpline, which has been active for the past 2 years, to find out about all available services in our county. In addition to information & assistance, CCNY Connects acts as a central intake for Medicaid and Office for the Aging home care. Starting April 1st it will take on the additional service of central intake for anyone seeking home delivered meals in the county. For more information about CCNY Connects, please call 753-4582, 363-4582 or 661-7582.

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