

**Beverly Farm Family & Friends Meeting  
Groves B. Smith Recreational Complex  
September 24, 2011**

**The meeting was called to order by Jody Zacharias at 10:20AM. Jody announced that this will probably be her last visit to Beverly Farm due to the passing of her brother, Jamie, last December. She said that although she will leave Beverly Farm “physically”, she and her husband, Juergen Kuehn, will always think fondly about their visits and the wonderful care that her brother received for many years.**

**Jody introduced Jennie (Ragland) Birdsall, brother of Richard in Stahl Cottage, as the new leader of the group. Jennie thanked Jody and her family for creating the Family & Friends Group, initially known as the Siblings Group, about 11 years ago.**

**The circled F&F members in attendance introduced themselves. The board members from Beverly Farm were also introduced.**

**Jennie recognized Martha Warford, Beverly Farm’s Director, who spoke briefly about developments at Beverly Farm. She mentioned that the State of Illinois was three months late with payments, and she did not expect reimbursements of any significant amount until late December. Martha announced that Barry Allswang’s, brother of Muriel in Beverly, time as Chairman of the Board was concluding this weekend. She introduced Bill McMahon, brother of John in Stahl, as the new Chairman of the Board. Martha also mentioned the key ring program at the DT Center. She announced that the clients had completed over 7 million key rings in a year. She said that it is rewarding to see the happiness of the many residents who are collecting larger paychecks.**

**The board members and some Beverly Farm staff departed to resume their meeting at the Administration Building.**

**Jennie introduced John Hilgert, Director of the Dr. Groves B. Smith Guardianship Corporation. John spoke briefly about the duties of the Guardianship. The officer serves almost 130 wards, most of who reside at Beverly Farm. He fielded some questions about his day to day schedule, trusts, and how someone obtains guardianship. It was suggested that it might be beneficial to have an attorney either attend the next F&F meeting or send information about trusts.**

**Cody Buttry, Admissions Coordinator at Beverly Farm, was asked to explain the policy for vaccinations. She said that over 95% of BFF residents receive flu shots annually, and most receive a pneumonia vaccine every five years. She said that flu shots were available to staff at Beverly Farm, but only about 50% of them take advantage of them.**

**Sandy Ferris, Safety Director at Beverly Farm, answered a question about the brick program. She said that the bricks were \$500 each, and the money would help with general operations. She told the group that there is a brick ceremony at 5:30 that afternoon to display the purchased/completed bricks.**

**Tandy Thompson, sister of Ceci in group home #4, announced that she attended several of the committee meetings on Friday, and she was concerned about the need for fundraising help and donations for Beverly Farm. She said that she was appalled to hear that approximately \$6,000 of the expenses for each resident at Beverly Farm is not reimbursed by the State of Illinois. Bob Johnston, father of Katy in Chappee, spoke about a website called iGive.com, which donates a portion of his purchases to Beverly Farm. Sharon Campbell, aunt to Brooke in group home #2, said that she lives locally and would like to see Beverly Farm join the SCRIP program at Schnucks, which donates a portion of grocery sales to charities. She also reminded people that the Coffee Cabana & Treasure & Trinkets resale shop was very nice and had many quality items. Mrs. Woodcock mentioned that retirees can donate portions of their IRA distributions to charity to receive a tax deduction. Someone also suggested that Beverly Farm apparel be available on the Beverly Farm website.**

**Karen Hamp suggested that someone from Beverly Farm's Development Office attend the next meeting to discuss the financial needs of Beverly Farm. Some F&F members were not aware that someone could donate money strictly to be used in one cottage or group home.**

**Corinne Baskin, sister of Alan Decker, asked about birthday cakes and parties for the residents. Kate Helmkamp, social worker, explained that families can contact the social worker for their loved one to request birthday cakes. She introduced Lydia Owens, who is a new social worker at Beverly Farm.**

**John Hilgert asked Sandy Ferris about the 255 Interstate development. Sandy explained that the State of Illinois had anticipated that the on/off ramps would be in working order by the end of the year.**

**Jennie encouraged everyone to attend Sunday's parent group meetings and then the Foundation meeting at the DT Center.**

**With no further questions, she thanked everyone for coming. She again thanked Jody & Juergen for their efforts. The meeting dismissed at 11:45 AM.**