

## Family and Friends Meeting- Beverly Farm- April 24, 2009

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Jody Zacharias at 10:30 A.M. There were approximately 70 people in attendance. Each person introduced themselves and their relationship to their resident at Beverly Farms.

Jody announced that Karen Hamp would be asking for a new secretary after this meeting, and asked for a volunteer. Leslie Hicks volunteered for the Fall Meeting.

There was a sheet passed around for name, address and email information and Mary Ann Chmelik agreed to collate this list and email people.

The board was represented by Martha Warford, Executive Director of Beverly Farms, and Dr. Barry Allswang, chair of the board. They were asked for a report on I-255, the highway that will take part of the Beverly Farms property and run close to the property.

The state has agreed to put up a perimeter fence around the construction near Beverly Farms, so that those residents who might be curious and wander onto the construction site would be protected. They have also agreed to pay for extra staffing during the construction for any issues that arise that may need extra staff.

The upside or positive side to the highway was reported to be that employees and family can get to Beverly Farms more quickly and easily, thus the employees can come from a wider area. Also, the DT (Developmental Training) Program can more easily draw from a wider geographical area because of ease of transportation.

Jody asked for questions and suggestions from the members. Several new members felt there should be an information sheet for new families. There were requests for more information about A). content, such as various programs available, taxi services to airport, and phone numbers of various departments, and B). processes, such as how to get a resident involved in the equestrian or aquatic program, and how to send a resident to summer camp, and whom to call for various information. There was a general tone of mild frustration or dissatisfaction with the lack of information for new families.

Several staff members were helpful in providing resources for help, such as calling the individual units, the social workers, or simply the switchboard and asking for the person who could help. It was also announced that there recently was instituted a packet for new members which might fill some of the needs and questions that are asked.

There was also a request for more information to be put on the website. There were specific requests for earlier information on the Family Weekends...especially the dates of them. And several requests for a Wish List so that people could donate specific things.

It was explained that the capital budget could be shown to anyone who wanted to donate money, and they could specify what item they wanted to donate toward. Their donation

would then be restricted to that item. This would be useful for those who wanted to donate specifically to the living unit where their resident stays.

Jody asked for suggestions for programs or subjects for the next meeting. It was suggested that the social workers speak. And someone else wanted John Hilgert to speak again.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30A.M.

Secretary,  
Karen Hamp