

Retirement Home Resident Network Meeting Synopsis

Meeting #9 2022 – October 25 2022

Welcome

RHRA introduced the guest speaker, the RHRA Partnerships and Engagement Manager.

Partnerships and Engagement (P&A) Overview

The guest speaker gave an overview of the role of the Partnerships and Engagement team. This includes engaging with partners involved in oversight of retirement homes, assisting homes with crisis management, and providing support and education to eligible homes through compliance support. RHRA also presented RHRA's COVID-19 Fall Preparedness Plan and asked the Resident Network (RN) for their feedback.

Resident Network feedback (three members present):

- One resident noted they think there are many regulatory bodies that provide information to retirement homes. They understand that retirement homes report daily on their outbreak status and it's just bureaucracy. When thinking about a retirement home's job to create a safe place for older adults to live, it takes time to make sure individuals are taken care of. This resident thinks about how much time organizations are demanding of people, and it seems that because of the pandemic, the reporting frequency and requirements have increased. This resident questions if this is the best way for retirement homes to spend their time and what are the actual benefits. This resident suggests that RHRA make sure reporting requirements do not overshadow the home's purpose.
- A resident commented that the quality of life (QoL) and the pandemic's influence has been studied, and isolation had a detrimental effect on mental health, especially those with early signs of dementia. They explained that when their home is in an outbreak, it's handled differently. There is an isolation protocol, but they don't isolate the whole building which makes a huge difference. This resident is beginning to see the results of extensive vaccination and people aren't getting as sick. This resident suggests that RHRA has to look at balancing living and being vigilant about isolating active cases and contact tracing.

- One resident mentioned an article that talks about the new threats of Omicron and we could be back in it in the fall/winter seasons so we need to keep perspective. Under the present circumstances, we could release the protection by restrictions in homes, but there needs to be planning down the line. They agree that the restrictions have been ridiculous but people have to be aware that the future may not look like that present.
- One resident emphasized they appreciate choice, and they are choosing to live their life to the fullest because they don't have many years left. They resent having any of those opportunities taken away so choice is most important to them.
- One resident suggests that RHRA tell retirement homes that they have to include warnings in their applications that say a resident's rights can be infringed upon.

Questions from the Resident Network:

- If someone is aging in place in a home they have no rules, but in a retirement home they have many rules. Why is that?

Action Items for RHRA

- Send a poll with meeting options to the RN.