

May 29, 2007

Greetings:

I am delighted to invite you to attend the first planning meeting on the development of Aging and Disabilities Resource Centers (ADRCs) in Connecticut. ADRCs are part of President Bush's New Freedom and Long Term Care Re-Balancing Initiatives, which aim to prevent barriers to community living for persons with disabilities of all ages and to reduce the institutional bias that currently exists in the delivery of long-term care services. ADRCs are also mandated in the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act, which strives to modernize aging-related services in the 21st century. These centers create a coordinated system of information and access to long-term support services for persons of all ages.

I am excited about this endeavor not only for the potential ADRCs have for rebalancing our long-term care system but by the fact that this is an opportune time to link with other initiatives such as Money Follows the Person. Together these initiatives will offer people information as to where they receive long-term care services, increase the availability of community-based care, enhance the efficiency of services and change the way institutional care is provided for those who truly need it.

Please join the State Unit on Aging on June 19, 2007 from 9:30 am to 3:00 pm at The Wadsworth Mansion at Long Hill Estate in Middletown (see attached directions) to begin discussions regarding ADRCs in Connecticut and to be a partner in its development. Our objective is to produce a model for the state that best meets the needs of all Connecticut's citizens. Representatives from the Administration on Aging, ADRC Technical Assistance Exchange and The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services will lead a discussion on ADRCs and how to achieve success and sustainability. An array of state and local advocates and agencies are being asked to participate in this partnership, including members of the aging and disability networks, representatives from the state Medicaid program, Independent Living Centers and Infoline.

Your expertise is crucial to the success of this initiative. Please be a partner in restructuring this important element of the delivery of long-term care services in the 21st century. Only with strong collaborative partnerships can we achieve our goal. If you cannot attend, please send a representative. Please RSVP by June 13, 2007 by calling 1-866-218-6631 and leave the name, organizational affiliation and telephone number of

each person attending. If you have any questions, please contact Roxanne Aaron-Selph, Program Administration Manager, Aging Services Division, at 860-424-5289.

Sincerely,



Pamela A. Giannini, MSW
Director, Bureau of Aging, Community and Social Work Services

Attachment

CC: Commissioner Michael Starkowski
Deputy Commissioner Claudette J. Beaulieu
Deputy Commissioner Amalia Vazquez Bzdyra
Roxanne Aaron-Selph, Program Administration Manager
Margaret Gerundo-Murkette, Program Manager