

**Simcoe Manor
Family Council**

**Minutes of Meeting
Wednesday, April 12, 2023**

Present – Rosa Athanassoulis-Programs and Support Services Supervisor, Susan Calder, Marcus Roopchan-Infection Prevention And Control, Heidi Flynn-Music Therapy Barrie, Linda Sherman, Debbie King, Diane Huntley

- **Welcome** – Susan Calder
- **Guest speakers, Music Therapy** – Heidi Flynn from **Music Therapy** in Barrie
 - music therapy supports residents – Heidi is a registered psychotherapist
 - music therapy is interactive and engaging – groups often led on guitar – there can be some religious music – percussive musical instruments are often used to involve residents in the music – involves cognitive reminiscing, it is sensory based sometimes using hand over hand involvement
 - families can request music therapy and sometimes might want to be involved in the program
 - program can be delivered privately or as part of a group – group participation cost is \$15.75/person – prices range upward from there
 - some funding is available through “Passport” funding, insurance containing psychotherapist funding, veterans’ funding – music therapy is an essential service provider and therefore can work with residents during outbreaks
 - contact music therapy through www.musictherapybarrie.ca or 705 503-4804, ext. 702 – also, families can choose to speak with Rosa Athanassoulis if wishing to contact music therapy
- **Quality Improvement Plan** – Rosa Athanassoulis
 - program and resident statistics are reviewed monthly – superintendents review department scorecards
 - key focus areas are part of the Quality Improvement Plan as set out by the Ministry of Long Term Care
 - program staff meet with residents regularly for comments about programs
- **Questions, as requested by members** – Marcus Roopchan-IPAC
 - the following questions were submitted by members for consideration
 - Marcus responded to questions – his comments follow this list of questions

1. There are not enough updates for families re. the increasing number of infected residents since March 31/23. (Whether it’s Covid or respiratory?) Eg. Nottawasaga unit originally had one person infected and now possibly 10?

2. There is no info for families whether all residents on affected units have been tested for Covid during this latest outbreak.

3. Are healthy/non infected residents allowed off the unit (eg. up to front lobby or outside, etc.)?

Yes, healthy/non infected residents are permitted to leave the unit. However, it is highly encouraged that they stay on the unit to prevent and reduce transmission.

4. Are all visitors allowed on infected units or only essential caregivers?

At this time only essential caregivers are allowed onto the unit during a COVID-19 outbreak. However, with the latest guidance update, this is being viewed to reflect the guidelines.

5. How are you making sure that staff are not spreading outbreak? Are there designated staff to work with infected residents only on each shift? Do you have equipment stands (with masks etc) outside each affected room? How effective is redirecting infected wanderers working?

6. As of April 1/23 there was poor communication re. protocols for entrance into the Manor (needed better signage for how to open doors to get inside). Also, when entering outbreak or surveillance floors, which masks should be worn under shields, before we had to wear N95 masks....now are purple masks satisfactory for visitors?

7. The sign in book at the main entrance does not require you to tell when visitor has left building....IF there was a fire or fire drill staff it would not be known how many extra people are in the building. *In answer to this question, I believe there is a sign in time and upon departure, in the same line, there is a sign out time to be entered by the visitor. The signing book has been amended to include the original sign-out time.*

8. Who is responsible for emptying overflowing garbage bins with masks/shields etc outside affected units especially on afternoon shifts?

Utilities

9. Can Simcoe Manor/Simcoe County override Public Health and Ministry of LTC 'thoughts or mandates' that residents don't need Covid testing at this time (...since changes as of April 1/23) even though we have a big outbreak?

This would need to be standardized across the board with the other sister homes. The decision to not adopt PH guidelines will have to come from senior leadership at the County of Simcoe level.

10. Is there a pattern of how residents have been infected?

(Eg. residents who have gone out of building on appointments or to hospital, or possibly infected by staff, or cohorting of staff)

Are the affected residents vaccinated?

With the easing of restrictions across the board, we are seeing more cases and around in the community and local hospitals. However, hospitalization and death are declining, and residents are recovering at a healthy pace. The first case that was identified during the March 2023 outbreak was a resident who contracted COVID-19 at a hospital.

11. Will IPAC remain in Simcoe Manor? Yes, it is part of legislation

12. Why is there yet again another switching of regular PSW and RPN staff (pending outbreak over) on Nottawasaga unit? The consistency on this unit has been poor.

- **Marcus** – Covid outbreaks – Innisfil unit was cleared April 12th – Essa unit was cleared last week – Nottawasaga outbreak continues at present time

- Question – email sent on March 31st with numbers of affected residents – why was there no communication after March 31st?

We always want to ensure that the case counts and information provided is concrete. All information is first relayed to PH to capture all their recommendations. From here the information goes through an internal communication team to construct the memo.

- screening for staff and visitors is now passive, i.e., posters or visuals that describe symptoms are located in various locations throughout the home, also signs to remind visitors and staff about masking and social distancing inside the home

- outdoor masking is only required for staff members except for Nottawasaga unit until their outbreak is resolved – resolution is expected by Sunday April 16th

- Nottawasaga had 25 cases with 4 resolved on April 12th - outbreaks can be resolved with a small number of cases still remaining – COVID is no longer as impactful as in the past

- vaccines reoccur every six months – residents affected by this outbreak will be eligible for vaccines in September/23 – most of Simcoe Manor's current residents will have been vaccinated again by September/23

- signing sheet for visitors will be adjusted to include sign-in time and sign-out time upon exiting the home – *remember to sign out!*

- housekeeping or nursing are responsible for emptying garbage bins (dependent on time of day)

- IPAC specialists meet weekly regarding adjustments of guidelines for COVID or other respiratory ailments – spread of COVID in March due to a resident's visit to hospital and spreading through interactions with other residents – IPAC is remaining in Simcoe County's four homes

- use of Paxlovid must be requested by families for COVID cases

- **Approve Minutes from meeting of March 1, 2023** – Susan Calder
- minutes approved by Debbie King and seconded by Linda Sherman

- **Treasurer's Report** – Linda Sherman
- current balance is \$202.61 – service charge of \$.31 has been reversed

- **Fundraiser, Krispy Kreme Donuts** – Linda Sherman
- pre-sale orders with payment in advance or same day sale – thank you to Linda for researching the information for this fundraiser – minimum order for donuts is 50

dozen with total cost of \$350 – it is suggested by Krispy Kreme to sell donuts at \$12-\$15 a dozen

- all four homes are doing Krispy Kreme fundraiser in October
- make fundraiser part of the community event at Simcoe Manor to be held August 2nd – perhaps sell single donuts and coffee
- only glazed donuts are provided for fundraising
- Linda Sherman will complete letter to be part of fundraising – include goals to support Christmas social activities for residents

- **What Residents Can Expect, handout** – Rosa Athanassoulis
 - new changes to guidelines for long term care – webinar is available to describe changes at fco.org (Family Councils of Ontario) on Monday, April 17th
- **Elvis Presley Tribute concert** – July 6th at 2-3 P.M.
 - Thank you for concert cost of \$250 to be paid in half's by Family Council and Residents' Council
 - Naomi Bristow will present a concert in the evening on July 6 from 6-7pm
 - Monthly Family Council meeting will move to August 9th/23
- **Hairdressing Program, Forever Young** – Rosa Athanassoulis
 - at the present time, there is no news about the hairdressing program – provider/contractor Forever Young is working with the County procurement officer to find an interested hairdresser
- **Food in Residents' rooms** – Rosa Athanassoulis
 - eating with residents in private rooms is permitted – in semi-private rooms, it is necessary to find a separate room or in good weather it is always pleasurable to eat outside
- **Home Updates** – Rosa Athanassoulis, Programs and Support Services Supervisor
 - consultation with Kitty Muirhead to speak at the Manor in the fall with information for caregivers
 - community information event and market will be held on August 2nd from 2 P.M. to 7 P.M.
 - volunteer lunch on April 21st from 10 A.M. to 1 P.M.
 - Pride T-shirts will be sold to support units during the last week of June, cost is \$15/shirt – different pastel colours support each unit at the Manor
 - chicks are hatching
 - Redevelopment Committee (development of new Simcoe Village site) resumes information meetings on April 17th
 - Family Council table will be represented in the front foyer during the afternoon of May 20th
- **New Business** – Susan Calder
 - Please contact Susan through the Family Council email for issues that can be discussed at the next meeting.

Adjourned: 5 P.M.
Linda Sherman

Next Meeting,
Wednesday, May 3, 2023
3 P.M.
Tea Room at Simcoe Manor
Microsoft Teams