



NY Connects Offers Help For Those Needing Long Term Care

The New York State Office for the Aging (NYSOFA) and the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) have joined efforts to fulfill a vision of a restructured and accessible long term care system. This collaboration has resulted in the formation of NY Connects, a statewide initiative that provides access to information and assistance to those seeking long term care choices.

NY Connects defines Long Term Care as medical and non-medical services that can be provided at home, in the community or in a residential setting. Some examples of Long Term Care services are home delivered meals, home health services, mental health services, transportation, housing, personal care, nutrition education, legal services, weatherization programs, assisted living facilities and skilled nursing homes. The complete listing of services that NY Connects offers information about can be found on our website at www.niagaracounty.com/nyconnects.asp.

Through the provision of information and assistance to individuals age 60 and over, along with individuals of all ages with physical and/or developmental disabilities, their respective caregivers and health care professionals, NY Connects provides unbiased information and assistance regarding available services that can make it easier for people to determine which services best meet their growing needs. For Niagara County residents, the process is very simple - contact NY Connects Niagara County at (716) 438-3030 and trained professionals will assist you through the process of accessing information.

In addition to acting as an unbiased referral source, NY Connects Niagara County facilitates a Long Term Care Advisory Council, comprised of 4 community representatives and 30 agencies/facilities that serve the eligible populations. Over the past year, this council has conducted a needs assessment/community survey which has resulted in a Strategic Plan to address future areas of need. The council is working toward implementing these strategies to further streamline access to services and assist individuals in understanding the long term care system and how it works. Collaboration is the key and Niagara County residents and service providers are working together, facilitating smoother navigation of the often overwhelming long term care system.

Through this monthly news article, we will highlight different services and programs that are available throughout our community. We will also discuss issues pertinent to the long term care system and respond to requests for information that may be of interest to the general population.

Individuals in need of information regarding NY Connects Niagara County or long term care services that are available in our community are encouraged to call (716) 438-3030 for assistance.