**Caregiver Connection Meeting- Stroke Comeback Center**

February 26, 2019

Attending: Cressida McKean, Gwen Flanders, Joyce Bolton, Bob Rosenblatt, Ellwood Howerton, and Pat Harley.

This meeting had two objectives. The first was to network among caregivers and to brainstorm on priority concerns. The second was to discuss a presentation on “Handling the Confusion of Medicare, Social Security and Prescription Drugs” with Bob Rosenblatt, a journalist and blogger, who specializes on aging and healthcare.

**Networking Discussion – A Data Base of Resources for Caregivers**

The group decided that caregivers would like to have a data base of resources that could help them and others who face the challenges of supporting a stroke survivor. They wanted readily available information about service providers specifically recommended by other caregivers or other valued sources that would be a private data base for SCC-related caregivers and staff, not a publically available resource. The group identified critical types of service needs: psychologists both for caregivers and stroke survivors; caregiver information, both recommended firms and criteria for selection; temporary care for stroke survivors, both housing and dedicated staff support, in the event of caregiver illness, respite, travel, or death; residential housing and care options, including skilled nursing facilities, independent living and continuing care communities, dementia-friendly facilities, and specific criteria for selecting these hosing and care options.

It was decided that the next step would be an email outreach to the SCC community, including caregivers, SCC staff, the SCC board of directors, the SCC Professional Advisory Board, and other sources who are friends of the SCC. The outreach email would request specific information with recommendations on each of these service providers that would be compiled by the Caregiver Connection into a master data base. Cressida McKean offered to compose a draft email that would be discussed at an upcoming Caregiver Connection meeting.

**Medicare, Social Security and Prescription Drugs – Bob Rosenblatt**

Bob Rosenblatt facilitated a rich conversation on key resources discussed during the caregiver brainstorming session. This included your rights under Medicare and Social Security, on-line resources on service providers such as [www.benefitscheckup.org](http://www.benefitscheckup.org) and others. The attached “Useful Tips in Working with the Confusing Health Care and Retirement Systems” prepared by Bob Rosenblatt provides a useful summary of these resources with on-line links.

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Caregiver Connection on Saturday, March 23would be a networking meeting.

**Attachment:** Useful Tips in Working with the Confusing Health Care and Retirement Systems, by Bob Rosenblatt

**Caregivers: Contact Information**

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