

## **New White Paper Offers a New Vision of Long Term Care for Governor-Elect Spitzer and Incoming State Leadership**

**NEW YORK, November 16, 2006.** The Long Term Care Community Coalition (LTCCC) announced today the release of a white paper: *Developing a New and Better Long Term Care System in New York State*. Meant to be a resource for Governor-Elect Spitzer and incoming state leaders, the white paper outlines a new vision: that the process of empowering the consumers of long term care (helping them take control of the factors that determine their health and their lives and have the power to make decisions and choices) as well as empowering their formal and informal caregivers, is central to transforming the long term care system for the better. The governor-elect has said that we must “redesign our health care system to reward the right kind of care.” This paper seeks to offer a pragmatic path to accomplish this worthwhile goal.

“There is a critical need to redesign our long term care system,” said Richard J. Molloy, executive director of LTCCC and an author of the report. “In the next twenty years, New York will see a substantial growth in the 60+ population. The number of people over 80, who have the greatest needs, will increase by over 40%. It is crucial that we are prepared to meet the needs of our aging population – our parents, loved ones and eventually ourselves – in the years ahead.”

Cynthia Rudder, LTCCC’s director of special projects and co-author of the report said, “Our current system is failing. It is fragmented in terms of regulations and services. New York has a serious lack of housing for those who want to remain in the community as they receive care, problems with workforce capacity and a lack of an effective workforce policy. We need change.”

The paper, developed with input from an expert panel and a survey of consumer groups across the state, provides specific recommendations on how the vision can be used to shape a new system that meets the needs and preferences of all consumers.

The paper details how the state should:

- **Focus on consumers and both their informal and formal caregivers as the heart and principal focus of the long term care system;**
- **Redesign the care planning system to mandate individualized plans and enable consumers to remain in their own community until they cannot or do not want to;**
- **Rework system financing to support necessary changes, including making sure adequate housing is available;**
- **Develop and maintain a workforce that has adequate training and supports;**  
**and**

- **Understand and meet the needs of informal caregivers.**

Members of the expert advisory panel had this to say about the white paper:

“With a new administration we have a great opportunity to improve the quality of life and care for our state’s nursing home and adult home residents. The white paper provides a great blueprint to make this happen.” - Geoff Lieberman, Executive Director, the Coalition of Institutionalized Aged and Disabled.

“This paper is one of the few that incorporates concerns about mental health and it is crucial that these issues be considered in any policy change” - Michael Friedman, Chairman, The Geriatric Mental Health Alliance of New York.

“Our current system does not make good use of the workforce we do have in terms of training and preparing them for their roles, nor do we provide them with opportunities for career advancement. This white paper lays the ground work for important change.” - Carol Rodat, New York Policy Director, Paraprofessional Healthcare Institute.

“This white paper is focusing on what is important to consumers needing long term care: the right and ability to remain in one’s own community. By focusing on all consumers of long term care, not only the elderly, it sends a powerful message to policy makers.” – Susan Dooha, Executive Director, Center for the Independence of the Disabled in New York.

The paper, supported by a grant from the Robert Sterling Clark Foundation, is available on LTCCC’s Website, [www.ltccc.org](http://www.ltccc.org).

Contacts: Richard Mollot ([richard@ltccc.org](mailto:richard@ltccc.org)) or Cynthia Rudder ([cynthia@ltccc.org](mailto:cynthia@ltccc.org))  
Phone: 212-385-0355

**ΔΔΔΔΔΔΔΔ**

***LTCCC is a statewide coalition of over two dozen organizations that works to protect the rights and welfare of long term care consumers in all settings, including nursing homes, assisted living facilities and managed long term care, by strengthening regulation, surveillance and enforcement.***