

Public Health Committee Meeting
October 9, 2012 – 2:00p.m.

Present: Chairman Wright; Supervisors Raymond, Kinowski, Veitch, Southworth, Grattidge, Yepsen and Wood; Spencer Hellwig, Administrator; Hans Lehr, Mental Health; George Martin, Sam Pitcherelle, Treasurer; Karen Levison, Public Health; Ryan Moore, Mgmt. Analyst; Steve Dorsey, County Attorney; League of Women Voters.

Chairman Wright called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance.

A motion was made by Mr. Kinowski, seconded by Ms. Raymond to approve the minutes of the September 10, 2012 meeting.

Ms. Yepsen requested an amendment to the minutes to include discussions pertaining to the empty beds at Maplewood Manor. The committee approved.

Mrs. Brown said she has contacted Saratoga Hospital and weekly they have been having phone conversations with Case Workers, and the Admissions Coordinator from Maplewood if available. She said they score the residents 1, 2, 3 depending on what their financial situation is. The hospital is using an outside service to help them apply for Medicaid. One is the minimum risk for getting Medicaid approved; two is there is some risk because they don't have all the documents in; three, is significant risk. She said after the telephone call anybody that is in the process of 1 or 2 with their Medicaid application in she calls DSS and asks them to look over everything and to give her a call back as to what is outstanding and what it look likes. At that point, depending on the situation, Mrs. Brown will contact the vacancy review committee for approval. Up to this point there has been no one to do that with, she said. Mrs. Brown said as of today there are two people that Medicaid is checking on for possible admissions. There is one that is not eligible due to excess resources; therefore the admissions board leader is in the process of gathering all the information. If there are no issues Mrs. Brown will contact the vacancy review committee for them to review it and to make a decision at that point. There are currently four possible admissions that are considered a three; therefore, they will not be looked at until more information is obtained.

Mrs. Brown said there are two admissions that are being looked at from Ellis and Sunny view Hospitals. She said the patient from Ellis had been at Maplewood Manor before and already had Medicaid in place. There is a patient at Albany Medical Center who has Medicaid and was in another nursing home, but would like to come to Saratoga County because this is where her daughter lives, she said.

Mrs. Brown said there are 41 empty beds at Maplewood Manor with four residents on Medicare Part A. There are 24 private pay which is 10%. There are six other people under other insurance, and 192 that are straight Medicaid at 81.4% and ten residents who are

Medicaid Hospice. Mrs. Brown said the beds are spread throughout the facility and they are trying to adjust the staff on a quarterly basis in order to not use overtime.

Mrs. Levison requested a resolution to accept the amended Billing and Collection Policy for Public Health as tabled last month pending review by the County Attorney, County Treasurer and County Administrator.

Ms. Raymond said she would like to see the Chairman receive a quarterly report on what is happening.

On a motion made by Mr. Grattidge, seconded by Mr. Kinowski the amended Billing and Collection Policy for Public Health was approved unanimously.

Ms. Levison said the Pediatric Immunization Program has been in existence for quite some time. She said the vaccines come from the Federal Program to vaccinate any children who are eligible with a large eligibility form that has to be filled out by the parents before the immunizations are administered. In the past vaccines were given out to children whose Pedestrians did not carry the vaccine. This is no longer allowed and the primary care doctors are being asked to carry all of the vaccines that are required under New York State Law for children to get into school. The fees that would be looked at are for children that would be eligible under the Vaccine for Children Program, where there would be no cost for the vaccine, but there is an administration fee set by the CDC currently \$17.85 and will probably increase to \$25.10, she said. She said the first fee would be for the vaccine for children, which is zero for the vaccine and the administration fee. The second fee requested would be for the cost of the vaccine, plus the administration fee for those children whose doctor says they are not carrying the vaccine. The administration fee for the children with Medicaid will be billed to Medicaid.

A motion was made by Mr. Veitch, seconded by Mrs. Southworth to approve the Pediatric Immunization fees as outlined. Unanimous.

Mr. Lehr requested a resolution to enter into an agreement with the Saratoga County Veterans Affairs to accept a one-time addition of \$180,000, 100% OMH State Aid Funding, effective 7/1/12 per NYS Senate initiative Special Legislative Grant by Senator McDonald, and to amend the 2012 County Budget. He said the initiative is for development and implementation of a pilot program using individual and small group peer to peer counseling methods to assist veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder. The program is to be administered by the Saratoga County Veterans Affairs. Expenses are to be reported on the Saratoga County Mental Health Consolidated Fiscal Report. Although allocated in the 2012 State Aid Letter, the funds can be spent through June 30, 2014.

A motion was made by Ms. Yepsen, seconded by Ms. Raymond to approve a \$180,000 Legislative Grant by Senator McDonald to develop, and implement counseling for Veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder. Unanimous.

Mr. Lehr requested a resolution to amend the 2012 budget and contract with Transitional Services Association to accept additional funding from the Office of Mental Health, adding four supported housing units effective 10/1/12. He said the additional housing units are designated for individuals who met high-need eligibility criteria. The full annual value for these beds is \$37,140.

Mr. Lehr said because this is being implemented October 1, 2012 a request has been made to amend the budget for \$9,285.

A motion was made by Mr. Grattidge, seconded by Ms. Raymond to approve amending the 2012 budget in the amount of \$9,285 and contract with Transitional Services Association to accept additional funding from the Office of Mental Health, adding four supported housing units effective 10/1/12. Unanimous.

Mr. Hellwig gave a brief update on the Maplewood Manor Assessment as follows: In accordance with the August 13th report from the consultants they have taken the next step in the assessment and future of Maplewood Manor and saw the evaluation of the physical plant. The consultants that were engaged are firms that specialize in this type of work and they were asked to do a preliminary evaluation. Based on their work and access to the financial records they have advised that the facility has a value in the range of \$11 million to \$13.5 million.

Mr. Wright said the budget will be released at the end of October and there will need to be some decisions made thereafter with regard to Maplewood Manor.

Ms. Raymond asked if there was any information available with regard to the Intergovernmental Transfer. Mr. Hellwig said as indicated in the assessment there was an expectation for this year, but nothing has been confirmed as yet. He said this information is important because it will have a great impact on the size of the subsidy from the county for 2013.

On a motion made by Mr. Kinowski, seconded by Mr. Veitch the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom