

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE MINUTES

FEBRUARY 6, 2008 – 3:30 P.M.

Present: Chairman Lucia; Supervisors Connelly, Sausville, Southworth, Wood, Wright and Yepsen; David Wickerham, County Administrator; Janet Glenn, Terri Stortz, Alan Kempf, Public Health; Diane Brown, Sandi Fischer, Maplewood Manor; Dale Angstadt, Mental Health; Sam Pitcherelle, County Treasurer; League of Women Voters; Press.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Wood, seconded by Mr. Wright the minutes of the January 9, 2008 meeting were approved unanimously.

Mr. Angstadt requested a resolution to amend the 2008 budget to allow for the re-appropriation of 2007 funds in the amount of \$89,600 for replacement of billing software as agreed in the existing Netsmart contract for work that will begin in 2008.

The 2008 Saratoga County budget would reflect the following changes:

Revenue

Increase account 1-0599.M \$89,600
(Appropriated Fund Balance)

Appropriation

Increase account 1-43-431-8160 \$89,000
(Data Processing Fees)

A motion was made by Mr. Sausville, seconded by Mr. Wright to amend the 2008 budget to allow for the re-appropriation of 2007 funds in the amount of \$89,000 for replacement of billing software as agreed in the existing Netsmart contract for work that will begin in 2008. Unanimous.

Mrs. Brown said, although 2007 financial information is still being gathered, at this point in time, it is clear that the Maplewood Manor budget will be short \$900,000. In 2006 when the budget was being formed for 2007, we were informed that there would be changes made to the Medicaid reimbursement for an additional \$9.12/day. In the final 2006-2007 State budget the Legislature recognized that there was need to update the 25-year-old reimbursement system and provide transition payments to providers for 2007-2008. The 2007 Maplewood Manor budget was prepared based on the adjusted Medicaid reimbursement, adding approximately \$750,000 into the budget for the transition payments. To date, the Federal Government has not approved that amount of money.

The Governor's 2008-2009 proposal has included the elimination of those funds. Although it will need to be approved by the Federal Government, at this point it looks like based on the Governor's proposed budget that, there are proposed changes to the Public Health Laws.

A motion was made by Ms. Yepsen, seconded by Mr. Wood to approve amending the 2007 budget by moving \$900,000 from the fund balance for Maplewood Manor. Unanimous.

A motion was made by Ms. Yepsen, seconded by Mr. Connelly to move to the Legislative and Research Committee the issue of cutting Medicaid Reimbursements to Nursing Homes from the 2008-2009 budget. Unanimous. (Committee Approval Only)

Mrs. Brown said she has been approached with regard to accepting an individual covered under CHUB insurance, and a rate has been negotiated at \$250/day plus a cash assessment including medications. Currently, the private pay rate is \$235/day plus a cash assessment.

A motion was made by Mr. Wood, seconded by Mr. Connelly to approve a resident under CHUB insurance at a rate of \$250/day plus a cash assessment. Unanimous. (Committee Approval Only)

Mrs. Brown outlined the following accomplishments from Maplewood Manor as follows:

1. Continued participation on the IPRO 8th Scope of Work with the goal to improve resident and staff quality of life.
2. Continued participation with area health care providers in the "War on Sores" (program to reduce the number of pressure sores in all health care settings).
3. Three current employees completed their education to become registered nurses and began working at the facility in that capacity.
4. Enhanced our in-house staff education programs through the use of free online programs (Computers were moved into the classroom for use).
5. Negotiated contract with CDPHP and Senior Whole Health to become a participating provider for members enrolled in these insurance plans.
6. In March 2007 awarded a \$24,323 grant from the New York State Department of Health, which was used to offset costs associated with employee tuition reimbursement and scholarship programs. In September 2007 we received an award

for an additional \$11,447 in funding to address recruitment and retention needs of non-supervisory staff.

7. Successfully implemented the new financial and clinical computer software.
8. Implemented a new more efficient medication ordering system with the pharmacy.

Janet Glenn requested a resolution to amend resolution #240-07 to accept additional funding and amend the 2008 County Budget thereto. At the end of 2007 Public Health was notified by the New York State Department of Health that they would be awarded an additional \$25,000 to the Bio-terrorism grant, to be used for City Readiness Initiative (CRI), for the time frame of August 2007 to August 2008. The CRI is a federally funded effort to prepare major U.S. cities and surrounding metropolitan areas to effectively respond to a large-scale bioterrorist event, by dispensing antibiotics to their entire identified population within 48 hours of the decision to do so.

The CDC and NYS Department of Health will annually review the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) plan for all the project areas, utilizing the Technical Assistance Review Tool (TAR). The review tool consists of twelve sections dealing with the SNS plan and key elements within the plan, including training, exercise and evaluation. The tool also looks at coordination with local hospitals, alternate care facilities and staging sites. The CDC and NYSDOH will meet with key representatives responsible for the SNS plan and all of the functions. The results of the review will be publicized annually.

Public Health has been approved by HRI, to principally use the funds to acquire supplies for four additional Points of Distribution (POD's), bringing available resources up to ten POD's as identified in the plan. In addition, some agency staff will be required to participate in a Statewide drill in late spring/early summer.

Increase Revenues:

1-40-4487	BT Grant	\$25,000
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Increase Appropriations:

1-40-410-8200	Departmental Supplies	\$ 6,003
1-40-410-8242	Medical Supplies	\$ 5,265
1-40-410-8243	Minor Med. Equip.	\$ 7,885
1-40-410-8512.ML	Lodging/Meals for Drill	\$ 450
1-40-410-8520	Software	\$ 598
1-40-410-8533	Telephone	\$ 720
1-40-410-8540	Minor Office Equip.	\$ 1,800
1-40-410-8550.1	Central Supplies	\$ 1,779
1-40-410-8560.1	Central Printing	\$ 500

A motion was made by Mr. Sausville, seconded by Mr. Wood to approve a resolution to amend resolution #240-07 to accept additional funding in the amount of \$25,000 and amend the 2008 County Budget thereto. Unanimous.

Mrs. Glenn requested a resolution to amend the Agreement with NYS Department of Health to accept COLA funding for the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program and to amend the 2008 County Budget.

Mrs. Glenn said Chapter 57 of the Laws of 2006 provides for the Commissioner of Health to establish an annual COLA for Programs outlined in the Statue. These funds have been identified as either for staff recruitment and retention or for other non-critical personal service costs. For the fiscal year 2007-2008 the funding is at 5.16% of the applicable Grant amount. Public Health is eligible to claim COLA's for the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program; CSHCN Program, El Program and Immunization Action Plan.

In December of 2007, the State advised Public Health that they would be eligible for up to \$1,806 of COLA funding to be added to the Lead Grant, and must be used by March 31, 2008.

Saratoga County Public Health has participated in the NYS Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program since 1989. Since 2006 the program has identified the need to expand, identifying more issues with lead poisoning. Primary prevention of lead poisoning is now the focus, not waiting until a child is already exposed. Screening is now done on children up the age of 19-years, when they have been identified as having a potential exposure to lead.

Providers in NYS are required to test children for lead at ages one and two years old. In Saratoga County approximately 40% of primary care providers meet the requirements to test at ages one and two despite continued education by our lead coordinator. Many providers feel that most lead risks have been eliminated. This year, with the recalls on toys and other child-related products, the lead issue has been brought to the forefront again.

All laboratory reports of lead lab screening tests done for Saratoga County children are electronically submitted to the Public Health office daily. The Lead Coordinator reviews all the records and follows up on any lead result of 10mcg/dl or higher. The results are then reviewed with the parents and the primary care provider to educate the family and provider on the need for follow up testing.

During 2007 there were approximately 3,000 children tested for lead levels.

The COLA money will be used to increase education efforts with primary providers by obtaining and distributing magnets to serve as a reminder of the need for lead testing for children at age one and then again at age two. A brochures is also available to providers,

contractors, code enforcement officers and parents. A plan is in place to obtain additional educational information to be distributed at the Saratoga County Fair as well.

Increase Revenues:

1-40-4407	Lead Grant	\$1,806
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Increase Appropriations:

1-40-406-8200	Departmental Supplies	\$1,056
1-40-406-8514	Books and Publications	\$ 250
1-40-406-8560	Printing	\$ 500

Mrs. Glenn requested a resolution to amend the Agreement with NYS Department of Health to accept COLA funding for the Children with Special Health Care Needs Program and to amend the 2008 County Budget.

Mrs. Glenn said the Children with Special Health Care Needs Program Coordinator assists families in the search for health care. The coordinator makes many presentations to area service agencies regarding the available insurance programs through the State of New York, and provides assistance to residents regarding the Physically Handicapped Children's' Program.

The funding will be used to update/print brochures for the program and assist with outreach efforts. Promotional items will be distributed at the Saratoga County Fair as well.

Increase Revenues:

1-40-4483	CSHCN Grant	\$1,372
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Increase Appropriations:

1-40-403-8200	Department Supplies	\$ 404
1-40-403-8540	Minor Office Equipment	\$ 468
1-40-403-8560	Printing	\$ 500

Mrs. Glenn requested a resolution to amend the Agreement with NYS Department of Health to accept COLA funding for the Early Intervention Program and to amend the 2008 County budget.

Mrs. Glenn said the Early intervention Program provides services to infants and toddlers under the age of three who have a disability or developmental delay. Currently 200 children are receiving services through the program.

The funds will be used to replace a six and a half year old Laser Printer, obtain a table/stand for the printer, replace three desktop PC's to work with the NYSE system, provide the EID with a new printer, and obtain office software for all new PC's and laptops. Speakerphones will be provided at home visits when one party cannot be there, and storage cases will be provided to transport case records and laptops in coordinators vehicles.

Increase Revenues:

1-40-4483	EI/CF/CSHCN Grant	\$7,122
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Increase Appropriations:

1-40-403-7033	PC's	\$3,345
1-40-403-8512	Conferences	\$ 150
1-40-403-8514	Books & Publications	\$ 175
1-40-403-8520	Software	\$1,800
1-40-403-8540	Minor Office Equip	\$ 998
1-40-403-8550.1	Office Supplies	\$ 654

Mrs. Glenn requested a resolution to amend the 2008 County Budget to accept COLA funding for the Immunization Action Program (IAP).

Mrs. Glenn said the IAP Grant supports county efforts to immunize both children and adults against vaccine preventable diseases.

In August of 2006 a new law went into effect that mandates the creation of a statewide immunization registry for the purposes of collecting and storing mandated information on vaccinations administered to all persons less than 19 years of age.

The New York State Immunization Information System is a secure, fee web-based statewide immunization information system, which will maintain information on vaccinations administered to all persons less than 19 years of age. The registry will be fully operational as of March 1, 2008.

Increase Revenues:

1-40-4411	IAP Grant	\$1,436
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Increase Appropriations:

1-40-000-7033	PC's	\$1,300
1-40-000-8520	Software	\$ 136

On a motion made by Ms. Yepsen, seconded by Mr. Sausville the above requests for COLA funding were approved unanimously.

Mr. Lucia asked if anyone would like to volunteer to be a representative from the Public Health Committee, on the Autism Council? Mrs. Southworth volunteered.

On a motion made by Mr. Wood, seconded by Mr. Sausville the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Sansom