

## PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE MINUTES

NOVEMBER 6, 2008 – 4:00 P.M.

Present: Vice Chairman Sausville; Supervisors Connelly, Southworth, Wood, Wright and Yepsen; Spencer Hellwig, Mgmt. Analyst; Janet Glenn, Alan Kempf, Public Health; Diane Brown, Maplewood Manor; Hugh Burke, Attorney's Office; Pat Reed, League of Women Voters.

Vice Chairman Sausville 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 October 1, 2008 meeting were approved unanimously.**

Mrs. Brown said the current private pay rate is \$235/day plus the cash assessment. Comparisons are made yearly with other facilities in the area to determine any increase. The average of three area county nursing homes for a private room is \$300/day plus the cash assessment; semi private is \$275/day plus the cash assessment. Mrs. Brown said she is requesting to increase the private pay rate to \$245/day plus the cash assessment.

**A motion was made by Ms. Yepsen, seconded by Mrs. Southworth to approve the increase in the private pay rate to Maplewood Manor Nursing Home from the current \$235/day plus cash assessment to \$245/day plus cash assessment for 2009. Unanimous.**

Mrs. Brown said as with all facilities, residents pay for their own prescription medications and their own restorative therapy services.

Mrs. Glenn requested authorization to write-off bad debts in the amount of \$1,485.00. This year there were eight write-offs, which represents approximately 1/3% of the non Medicare/Medicaid home care revenues.

There is a collection process in place. Usually they are people who have co-paid or they enter a nursing without any money and are not yet Medicaid eligible.

Mrs. Yepsen asked what the comparison was to last year? Mrs. Glenn said that last year the bad debt write-off's amounted to \$1,281.55.

**A motion was made by Mr. Connelly, seconded by Mr. Wood to approve write-off of bad debts in the amount of \$1,485.00. Unanimous. (Committee Approval Only)**

Mrs. Glenn requested committee approval to amend the MVP Contract. She said Public Health is seeking to amend the existing MVP Contract to add reimbursement for MVP

Commercial and MVP Gold members that receive either flu or pneumonia vaccines at Public Health Clinics.

While the rates have existed for several years as part of other insurance plan contracts, this is the first year that MVP is adding this service to their contracts.

Effective retroactively to October 15, 2008 any covered MVP Commercial or Gold member will receive their flu or Pneumococcal vaccine at not cost to the member.

The County will bill and receive an all-inclusive rate of \$24 for Flu and \$30 for Pneumonia. This amount is similar to that received from other major insurance plans with which we participate and is higher than the cost to purchase the respective vaccines.

**A motion was made by Mrs. Southworth, seconded by Mr. Wood to approve the insurance company rates of \$24 for Flu shots and \$30 for Pneumonia shots. Unanimous.** (Committee Approval Only)

Mrs. Southworth said she favored the idea of more and more people moving to the Medicare Plan of which MVP Gold is one. Several of the towns use this plan for retirees, and this will allow them to continue with the same service that is currently provided to them.

Mrs. Glenn said Public Health is in the process of conducting flu clinics throughout the county at various senior centers, community centers, town halls and senior housing facilities throughout the county. Twenty clinics have been completed with eleven yet to go.

The vaccine will be offered to county employees beginning the end of November.

The entire order of 2,800 doses of the vaccine have been received. Information regarding the clinics has been published in area newspapers and is on the county website.

To date, 1,257 does of the vaccine have been administered. There have been sporadic cases of the flu reported in New York State, mostly in the New York City area.

Ms. Yepsen asked Mr. Lehr for an update on the status of Psychiatrists for the Mental Health Facility.

Mr. Lehr said they are in pretty good shape, with four full time Psychiatrists and 3 contract Psychiatrists. A Psychiatrist was placed in a joint position with the correctional facility and is going very well.

Mr. Lehr said with the economic conditions there has been an increase in demand for services, but Saratoga County is not seeing the demand as much as some of the other counties.

Mr. Sausville said the League of Women Voters has recommended that the county open all of the committee meetings for observation from the public.

Pat Reed said, we in the League of Women Voters have a process referred to as the Observer Core where members attend various county committee meetings. A recommendation has been made to have more transparency such as having the agendas available prior to the meetings allowing people to be more informed as to what is happening in the county.

**On a motion was made by Mr. Wood, seconded by Mrs. Southworth the meeting was adjourned.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Chris Sansom