

## Public Health Committee Minutes

December 3, 2008 – 3:30 p.m.

Present: Chairman Lucia; Supervisors Southworth, Wood, Wright, and Yepsen; Spencer Hellwig, Mgmt. Analyst; Dale Angstadt, Carol Lyte, Mental Health; Diane Brown, Maplewood Manor; Alan Kempf, Terri Stortz, Janet Glenn, Public Health; Pat Reed, League of Women Voters; Press.

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

**On a motion made by Mrs. Southworth, seconded by Mr. Wood the minutes of the November 5, 2008 meeting were approved unanimously.**

Mrs. Glenn requested a resolution to increase the compensation for the Medical Director, Dr. DelGiacco, effective 1/1/09 from the current \$38,169 to \$39,505.

Dr. DelGiacco's duties are to provide advice and direction for the entire agency (CHHA and Public Health/Prevention), making medical decisions as needed. He is also the TB Consultant and oversees the Physically Handicapped Children's Program. In addition, he is chairman of the Quality Assurance Committee, which meets quarterly.

Dr. DelGiacco is on site monthly seeing patients in the TB clinic. Public Health is also in contact with him frequently during the week with TB treatment issues or other issues involving the agency.

Approximately 36% of Dr. DelGiacco's compensation is reimbursed by the State.

**A motion was made by Mrs. Southworth, seconded by Mr. Wood to approve a resolution to increase the salary of Dr. Del Giacco from the \$38,169 to \$39,505. Unanimous.**

Mrs. Glenn requested a resolution to increase hourly rates for Aide Agencies, effective 1/1/09.

Currently Public Health contracts with six Aide Agencies. Each eligible agency is contacted to see if they are interested in requesting an increase. The following four agencies have made a request this year:

- Greater Adirondack Home Aides is requesting an increase from \$25.54 to \$26.05/hr., representing a 3% increase. They have also requested similar increases from Warren and Washington counties.

Greater Adirondack Home Aides provide the most service to Saratoga County Public Health. They have no Holiday rate and provide weekend coverage when requested, at no cost. They are an independent not-for-profit agency that is not affiliated with another CHHA as are most of the other aide agencies.

- Home-Health Partners is requesting an increase from \$20.50 to \$22.00/hr., representing a 7.32% increase. Consistent with prior years they were held to a two-year freeze on their rate. It is recommended that these rates be held for two-years as well. The holiday rate will increase from \$30.75 to \$33.00/hr.
- Living Resources is requesting an increase from \$17.00 to \$17.85/hr. for HAA service and a holiday rate for the same service from \$25.50 to \$26.75/hr.; \$16.50 to \$17.35/hr. for PCA service and a holiday rate for the same service from \$24.75 to \$26.00/hr.; \$14.50 to \$16.25/hr. for Homemaker service and a holiday rate from \$21.75 to \$24.35/hr. It is recommended that these rates be held for a two-year period.

When authorized by Public Health, staff will be reimbursed for mileage related to patient care. It is recommended that it be tied to the prevailing IRS rate of .55 per mile for 2009.

- Visiting Nurses Home Care is requesting an increase from \$19.70 to \$20.30hr. for HHA, PCA or Homemaker, and a holiday rate increase from \$28.71 to \$29.58/hr. for the above services.

The mileage rate will remain at the prevailing IRS rate of .55 cents per mile for 2009 with prior approval by the nurse.

**A motion was made by Ms. Yepsen, seconded by Mr. Wood to approve a resolution to increase the hourly rates for Aide Agencies as stated above. Unanimous.**

Mrs. Glenn said Physical therapists have requested an increase in their rates, effective 1/1/09. Rates were last increased on 1/1/08. She is requesting a resolution to approve the rates as stated below.

After a review and discussion with Mr. Pratt the following Physical therapy rate increases are being recommended:

<u>From</u>	<u>TO: (effective for 2009)</u>
\$77 Per initial patient visit requiring documentation without Pubic Health Nurse, including mileage (PT only)	\$79 Per initial patient visit, requiring OASIS for start of care, (without Public Health Nurse) including mileage (PT only)
\$57 Per patient visit, including mileage. No OASIS completed).	\$58 Per patient initial or re-visit, Including mileage. (No OASIS completed).
\$62 Per patient visit, including mileage. (OASIS for recert, ROC or Discharge completed).	\$64 Per patient visit, including mileage. OASIS for recert, ROC or discharge completed.

\$13 Per attempt to make a patient visit, including mileage. No service provided.

\$14 Per attempt to make a payment visit, including mileage. No service provided.

\$6 Additional for any visit, including mileage, made in the towns of Day, Edinburg, Hadley or Waterford.

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\$32 Attendance at required meetings, inservices or training.

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Mrs. Glenn said Medicare requires different paperwork for various stages in the rehabilitation process. Those visits with related OASIS paperwork are at a higher rate. It is the OASIS paperwork that is so time-consuming, often taking a couple of hours to complete.

**A motion was made by Mrs. Southworth, seconded by Ms. Yepsen to approve a resolution increasing the Physical Therapy rates as stated above. Unanimous.**

Mrs. Glenn said Occupational Therapists have also requested an increase in their rates. The last increase was effective 1/1/06. The following rate increases are recommended beginning 1/1/09:

**From**

**To: (Rates in effect for 2009)**

\$56 Per patient visit, including mileage

\$60 Per patient visit, including mileage.

\$12 Per attempt to make a patient visit, including mileage. No service provided.

\$14 Per attempt to make a patient visit, including mileage. No service provided.

\$5 Additional for any visit, including mileage, made in the towns of Day, Edinburg, Hadley or Waterford.

\$6 Additional for any visit, including mileage made in the towns of Day, Edinburg, Hadley or Waterford.

\$30 Attendance at required meetings, inservices or training.

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Mrs. Glenn said at present, Medicare/HMO insurance reimburses at a higher rate than the proposed rates.

**A motion was made by Mr. Wood, seconded by Mrs. Southworth to approve a resolution accepting the proposed rate increases as outlined above for Occupational Therapy, effective 1/1/09. Unanimous.**

Mrs. Glenn said a request has been received from Medical Social Workers to increase their rates effective 1/1/09. The last increase was effective 5/1/06. The following rates have been recommended:

<b><u>From</u></b>	<b><u>To: (Rates in effect for 2009)</u></b>
\$58 Per patient visit, including mileage	\$60 Per patient visit, including mileage.
\$12 Per attempt to make a patient visit, including mileage. No service provided.	\$14 Per attempt to make a patient visit, including mileage. No service provided.
n/a Additional for any visit, including mileage, made in the towns of Day, Edinburg, Hadley or Waterford.	\$6 Additional for any visit, including mileage made in the towns of Day, Edinburg, Hadley or Waterford.
\$25 Attendance at required meetings, or training.	\$25 Attendance at required meetings, inservices or training.

Mrs. Glenn said it is recommended that the above rates be revisited in 2010. At present, Medicare/HMO insurance reimburses us at rates higher than the proposed rates.

**A motion was made by Mr. Wright, seconded by Ms. Yepsen to approve a resolution accepting the above stated rate increases for Medical Social Workers effective 1/1/09. Unanimous.**

Mrs. Glenn said Respiratory Therapists have requested an increase in their rates. The last increase was effective 1/1/04. The following rate increases have been recommended:

<b><u>From</u></b>	<b><u>To: (Rates in effect for 2009)</u></b>
\$60 Per patient visit, including mileage.	\$65 Per patient visit, including mileage.
n/a Additional for any visit, including mileage made in the towns of Day, Edinburg, Hadley or Waterford.	\$6 Additional for any visit, including mileage made in the towns of Day, Edinburg, Hadley or Waterford.
\$40 Attendance at required meetings,	\$40 Attendance at required

inservices or training.

meetings, inservices or training.

Mrs. Glenn said it is recommended that the above rates be held for a minimum of two years. At present, Medicaid reimburses at a rate higher than the proposed rate.

**A motion was made by Ms. Yepsen, seconded by Mrs. Southworth to approve a resolution to accept the above rate increases for Respiratory Therapy effective 1/1/09. Unanimous.**

Mrs. Glenn requested a resolution to enter into agreements with the NYS Department of Health for the Public Health Preparedness Grant and the Cities Readiness Initiative Grant for the period 8/1/08, and to accept funding.

Mrs. Glenn said this is the 7<sup>th</sup> round of grant funding for Public Health Emergency Preparedness, formerly know as the BT Grant.

The following changes were made to the grant by NYS DOH:

- Restored the length of the grant period to a full twelve months from 8/10/08 – 8/9/09.
- The Public Health Emergency Preparedness contract is 100% State funded for up to \$200,635.

**A motion was made by Ms. Yepsen, seconded by Mr. Wood to approve a resolution to enter into an agreement with the NYS Department of Health for the Public Health Preparedness Grant. Unanimous.**

Mrs. Glenn requested a resolution to enter into an agreement with HRI to accept a Public Health Preparedness Grant.

This is the second contract with HRI for the Cities Readiness Initiative, with pass through Federal funding from the CDC for up to \$75,000.

Plans for the new grant year are as follows:

- Train and fit test more staff and key individuals from other organizations in PPE protection.
- More training and drills for mass distribution of medications or vaccine, refining processes and adding more criteria for evaluation.
- More work to further refine disease surveillance.
- Large emphasis on education of the public and community partners.

- Work on improved delivery of information, which includes increasing the speed of evaluating, integrating and analyzing health data.
- Further work on mass prophylaxis and surge capacity.
- Train more staff in psychological first aid.
- Focus more on regional training for incident response.
- Further work on epidemiological surveillance and electronic transmission of photos and related data.
- Ongoing recruitment of medical and general volunteers.

To Date, Public Health has received no notice that this funding will be reduced to balance the State budget shortfalls.

**A motion was made by Ms. Yepsen, seconded by Mrs. Southworth to enter into an agreement with HRI to accept a Cities Readiness Initiative Grant for the period of 8/10/08 – 8/09/09. Unanimous.**

Mrs. Glenn thanked Chairman Lucia and all committee members for their support throughout the year.

Mr. Angstadt requested a resolution to amend the 2007 contract with The Alcohol and Substance Abuse Prevention Council of Saratoga, Inc., and to accept 2007 additional 100% State Aid funding.

The money is in the 2008 budget, but is money that is coming from 2007. This is because the State does not close their books for several years after the end of the year.

The contract would reflect the following changes:

- a) Paragraph “1” the last sentence is amended to provide as follows:
  - 1. The County hereto, in consideration of rendering said services, hereby agrees to pay over to the Agency hereto a sum not to exceed \$714,629, payable in the manner hereinafter set forth.
- b) Paragraph 2(c), is amended to provide as follows: the County will reimburse the Agency for the cost of services up to, but not exceeding the following amounts from:

NYS OASAS	\$691,694
NYS OMH (CF Plus)	\$ 8,788
Saratoga County	\$ 14,147

The 2008 Saratoga County budget would reflect the following changes: None. 100% 2007 State Aid, already budgeted and approved to be paid from 2008 appropriations.

**A motion was made by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Wood to approve a resolution to amend the 2007 contract with The Alcohol and Substance Abuse Prevention Council of Saratoga, Inc. and to accept 2007 additional 100% State aid funding. Unanimous.**

Mr. Angstadt requested a resolution to amend the 2007 contract to accept 100% state aid funding for Franklin Community Center, as approved by NYS OASAS.

The contract would reflect the following changes:

- a) Paragraph 1 is amended to reflect a total net cost of \$45,951.
- b) Paragraph 2(c) is amended to read as follows:

2(c) The County will reimburse the agency for the cost of services up to, but not exceeding the following amount(s) from:

NYS OASAS	\$45,951
Saratoga County	\$0

The 2008 Saratoga County budget would reflect the following change: NONE. 100% 2007 state aid already budgeted and approved to be paid from 2008 appropriation.

**A motion was made by Ms. Yepsen, seconded by Mr. Wood to approve a resolution to accept a 100% state aid funding for Franklin Community Center as approved by NYS OASAS. Unanimous.**

Mr. Angstradt requested a resolution to amend the 2008 budget and the current contract with Transitional Services Association, Inc. to access 2008 additional 100% State Aid funding that was approved by NYS OMH and NYS OASAS for programs provided by Transitional Services Association, Inc.

The contract would reflect the following changes:

- a) Paragraph 4 is amended to reflect a total net cost of \$1,624,185.
- b) Paragraph 5 is amended to read as follows:
  - 5. The county will reimburse the agency for the cost of services up to, but not exceeding the following amount(s) from:

NYS OMH (CSS)	\$118,841
NYS OMH (CSS-Psych-social)	\$ 8,748

NYS OMH (ICM Adult)	\$ 60,476
NYS OMH (ICM Adult & C/Y Mgr.)	\$ 28,313
NYS OMH (ICM C/Y Srv.)	\$ 27,031
NYS OMH (Supported Housing)	\$251,955
NYS OMH (Supported Case Mgmt.)	\$117,964
NYS OMH (Reinvestment)	\$621,639
NYS OMH (Kendra's Law)	\$ 33,569
NYS OMH (New Initiatives)	\$118,657
NYS OASAS	\$236,992

The 2008 Saratoga County budget would reflect the following changes:

Appropriation

Increase account 1-43-441-8726.200 \$ 5,961

Revenue

Increase account 1-43-3469 \$ 5,961  
(Reinvestment)

**A motion was made by Mrs. Southworth, seconded by Mr. Wright to approve a resolution to amend the 2008 budget and the current contract with Transitional Services Association, Inc. to access 2008 additional 100% State Aid funding that was approved by NYS OMH and NYS OASAS for programs provided by the Transitional Services Association. Unanimous.**

Mr. Angstadt thanked Chairman Lucia and the Public Health Committee for all their support during the past year.

Mrs. Brown thanked all the committee members for their continued support throughout the year.

Ms. Yepsen said she has come across a new prescription drug program and proposed it as a possible new initiative for the Public Health Committee for 2009. This program has come out of the NYSAC Legislation. The Fulton County Board of Supervisors has already voted to partner with pharmacies and the benefit management company, PRO ACT, Inc. The program would cost the eligible to receive 53% off generic prescriptions, and the card would be valid in any pharmacy.

Ms. Yepsen said if the county Board of Supervisors chooses to pass this, everyone in Saratoga County would receive a card and every time they use it in a pharmacy PRO ACT would receive a percentage.

Mr. Lucia acknowledged that it would be a program worthy of consideration.

Mr. Lucia thanked all the committee members and the department heads for their help throughout the year.

**On a motion made by Ms. Yepsen, seconded by Mr. Wright the meeting was adjourned.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Chris Sansom