

## PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE MINUTES

FEBRUARY 4, 2009 – 3:30 P.M.

Present: Supervisors Connelly, Southworth, Wood, and Yepsen; Spencer Hellwig, Mgmt. Analyst; Dale Angstadt, Carol Lyte, Mental Health; Diane Brown, Maplewood Manor; Janet Glenn, Public Health; Mike Maenza, PROACT; Wilma Koss, Saratoga Springs Resident.

Mr. Wood called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance.

Diane Brown distributed an outline of the 2008 accomplishments at Maplewood Manor as follows:

### **Resident Program Changes**

- Developed welcome program for new admissions
- Worked with the local ambulance corp. with a Home for the Holidays program
- Received a Partners for Prevention grant for three training programs
- Received Standards of Care Grant
- Implemented dinner dates with residents and their spouses
- Expanded physical therapy restorative rehab program with addition of the physical therapist in the afternoon

### **Environment**

- Boy Scouts built stage in Main Activity Room
- Three large screen TV's were purchased through unit fundraisers

### **Community**

- December Blood Drive yielded 46 donors
- Tax returns were completed with the assistance of volunteers and staff for residents in order for them to receive stimulus check

### **Staff**

- Director of Nursing received scholarship for ten week DNS training program
- Head Nurse received scholarship for head nurse training program
- Increased number of flu shots given to employees – up to over 55%
- Developed an employee information program to be more efficient in keeping employee information current
- Implemented scheduling software program in the nursing department

- Developed a computerized Infection Control tracking program
- Received train the trainer through grant for Leadership – Nurses for Better Leaders
- Developed and implemented Improving Customer Service inservice for employees

Mrs. Southworth said last year she attended the Quality and Assurance sessions and was impressed with not only the professionalism, but the honesty, on where they felt they could do better and where they had not quite met their own expectations. At a professional function recently, in the Pharmacy world, it really appears that the county nursing home is becoming a standard guide for others as far as keeping prescription costs down. The residents of Maplewood Manor are on less medication therapies than other nursing homes and they are using alternatives in an effort to keep the costs down for residents. She thanked Mrs. Brown and her staff for all their hard work.

Mr. Andgstadt presented a resolution to amend the 2009 budget with Transitional Services Association, Inc. to access 2008 additional 100% State Aid funding that was approved by NYS OASIS for programs provided by TSA.

The contract would reflect the following changes:  
None. 2008 contract is correct.

The 2009 Saratoga County budget would reflect the following changes:

**Appropriation**

Increase account 1-43-443-8726.013 (Trans ALC)	\$1,194
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**Revenue**

Increase account 1-43-3489 (SA OASAS TSA)	\$1,194
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The committee, due to a lack of quorum, did not approve the above resolution.

Mr. Wood said at last months meeting it was brought to the committee’s attention that some counties in the area are members of a prescription drug program PROACT.

Mrs. Yepsen said this is a real opportunity to provide a service to our county residents to help them save additional monies on their pharmaceutical purchases. Other counties have adopted PROACT or another plan that will not cost taxpayers any money. She suggested adopting a plan that could then be passed on to county residents at no cost to the county or resident. Even if you already have insurance, you can still take advantage of the program, she said.

Mr. Maenza gave a brief presentation on the Discount Card Prescription Program, PROACT, Inc. that has been endorsed by NYSAC as follows:

Any resident of the county, regardless of age can participate in the discount program. There is no income verification or application process. There is no cost to the county or participants. All pharmacies belong to networks so that they can access third-party insurance. By belonging to a network you agree to honor discount prescription programs. The discount comes from the pharmacy margin. They do that because they know that it is going to increase foot traffic to their stores and statistically they know that if someone gets a cash discount on something they are probably going to buy something else.

The discount card can be used at any pharmacy within the network of approximately 57,000 pharmacies. The discount program covers all prescription medications brand and generic. Prescriptions for pets would also be covered, but must be filled at a pharmacy.

Ms. Yepsen said for the past year she has been working with a coalition that was started in Saratoga to look at healthcare reform. The coalition is made up of approximately 80 Saratoga County residents who have a real interest in seeing change. There have been several towns/cities throughout the state that have passed resolutions to their state and federal officials stating their position and their support for either universal healthcare or a comprehensive quality lower cost coverage.

Ms. Yepsen said she is interested in working with other Supervisors in crafting a resolution to add to the legislative program for 2009.

Mr. Wood said he has discussed this with Mr. Lucia and has asked Mrs. Southworth and Mr. Connors if they would work with Ms. Yepsen on forming a resolution that would then be forwarded on to the Legislative and Research committee.

Mrs. Koss, a resident from Saratoga Springs asked if there was any way that a program could be established to develop an atrium where residents could go to receive some sunshine.

Mr. Wood asked Mrs. Brown to look into the possibilities.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Chris Sansom