

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE MINUTES

APRIL 1, 2009 – 3:30 P.M.

Present: Chairman Lucia; Supervisors Connelly, Richardson, Southworth, and Wood; Spencer Hellwig, Mgmt. Analyst; Dale Angstadt, Mental Health; Janet Glenn, Terry Stortz, Alan Kempf, Public Health; Diane Brown, Maplewood Manor; 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 March 4, 2009 meeting were approved unanimously.

Mr. Lucia congratulated Mrs. Brown on Maplewood Manors Employee Appreciation Day, stating that it was a very nice event.

Mrs. Brown said May 10th through 16th is National Nursing Home Week. For the past couple of years the Board of Supervisors has prepared a resolution recognizing the service that the nursing homes in Saratoga County provide to their residents.

A motion was made by Mr. Richardson, seconded by Mr. Connelly to approve a resolution declaring May 10th through May 16th, 2009 as National Nursing Home Week. Unanimous.

Mrs. Brown said Maplewood Manor has hospital labs come in and do laboratory services for the residents. Usually the laboratories bill the insurance companies directly, however, when a resident is under Medicare Part A or covered by some other insurance it is included in the rate. In the past the total figure has been under \$10,000, but costs have been rising and may exceed \$10,000 this year.

A motion was made by Mr. Wood, seconded by Mr. Richardson to approve a resolution to enter into a contract with Saratoga Hospital to approve laboratory services for residents at Maplewood Manor. Unanimous.

Mrs. Glen gave a brief update on the Public Health annual report as follows:

2008 was a year of successes and challenges. Successes included positive reviews of the Prevention and Emergency Preparedness programs. Challenges included maintaining levels of service in light of continued grant funding cuts due to the State's fiscal crisis and meeting staffing needs in a shrinking nursing workforce.

The following are some highlights from 2008:

- **Preventive Services**

All areas of the Prevention Team received their consolidated review by the NYS DOH in May of 2008 and received very favorable comments and ratings in all areas. This review occurs every three years.

- **Maternal-Child Services**

In October, new services were provided to infants under the age of one who are at risk of developing RSV or Respiratory Syncytial Virus, a common cause of bronchitis and pneumonia in these children. Nurses visit a child monthly for four to six months under the order of a physician to administer the medication Synagis. At present, this is the only known prophylaxis for RSV. From October to the end of December, Public Health received referrals for 23 children who have received 46 injections. The maternal child staff nurses were busy making visits to first time moms and babies, as well as other births that may have been identified as at risk. There were 2,388 births in the county in 2008, of which 44% received referrals.

- **Travel Clinic**

There continues to be an increase in attendance at the travel clinic and immunization clinic. In 2008 services were provided to 505 individuals as compared to 388 in 2007.

- **Lead Prevention Program**

Education on the hazards of lead exposure continued in light of the numerous recalls of products tainted with lead paint. The number of abnormal levels has been lower this year.

- **Flu**

Thirty-eight flu clinics were offered throughout the county with 2,524 doses of the vaccine administered.

- **Communicable Disease**

In 2008, over 700 cases of Lyme disease were reported on individuals residing in Saratoga County. Thus far, 393 cases have been confirmed; compared to 254 reported cases with 159 confirmed in 2007.

- **Rabies**

2008 saw a decrease in the number of reported animal bites along with the number of animals testing positive for rabies.

- **Emergency Preparedness**

In 2007, Saratoga County was added to the Metropolitan Statistical Area Cities Readiness Initiative along with Albany, Schenectady, Rensselaer and Schoharie counties. The focus is on being prepared for mass prophylaxis of the entire county within a 48-hour period. In May the first Technical Assistance Review of the program by NYS DOH took place, with a score of 91 out of a possible 100. In 2008, drills were conducted at two area emergency corps.

- **E1**

There was an increase of 475 referrals to the E1 program, compared to 389 in 2007.

- **In Home Care**

While the number of patients on the census remained consistent with 2007, the number of nursing and therapy visits was down. The feeling is that this is in large part due to the fact that many more individuals, especially seniors, are enrolling in Managed Care Organizations where insurance traditionally limits the number of visits a person can receive. Public Health continues collaborative partnerships with area agencies to address the incidence of pressure ulcers and also with community partners to address needs of the aging and disabled population.

Mrs. Glenn thanked the Board of Supervisors and the County Administration for their support in continuing the programs, and ensuring that the needs of all county residents are covered.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom