

## PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE MINUTES

JULY 1, 2009 – 3:30 P.M.

Present: Chairman Lucia; Supervisors Connelly, Richardson, and Wood; Spencer Hellwig, Mgmt. Analyst; Diane Brown, Maplewood Manor; Janet Glenn, Terrayne Stortz, Alan Kempf, Public Health; Hans Lehr, Mental Health; Janet Ramos, Antonette O'Donnell, Cancer Services Program of Saratoga County; Press.

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

**On a motion made by Mr. Wood, seconded by Mr. Connolly the minutes of the June 10, 2009 meeting were approved unanimously.**

Ms. Ramos said New York State offers a program to serve the uninsured. If you are uninsured and between the ages of 40 and up, and 50 and up, there are screenings that can be done. The problem, she said, is getting the word out to people. The program is 100% funded by the State and all screenings are free to patients. If screenings detect a problem, through a grant, Saratoga Hospital offers a financial package that people can sign up for anywhere from 35% to 100% free care at any of the health centers, emergency room or surgery center.

The Cancer Services Program is open Monday through Thursday at the Wilton Medical Arts as well as periodic screening days that are set up throughout the county. Cancer screening is currently scheduled in Schuylerville on July 12<sup>th</sup>, and Wilton, Oct. 24<sup>th</sup>, through the Cancer Screening mobile van. In the past year, the program has screened 500 people.

Mrs. Glenn suggested having a mobile screening at the local farmers markets. Mr. Lucia said he would like to have information about the program presented to the Board of Supervisors at either the Board meeting or Agenda meeting for July. He said the Board of Supervisors staff would make arrangements.

Mrs. Brown said for the past two years anyone who is an unlicensed prospective employee, and is potentially going to be working with residents, will need to be fingerprinted. Beginning June 15<sup>th</sup> the Criminal History Records Check Program requires live scan for fingerprinting. A contract has been established with a division of Criminal Justice Services with L-1 Enrollment Services to do the live scan fingerprinting. In order to have anyone go to the site, the county will have to pay up front for the fingerprinting. After reviewing several options, it was determined that the best option would be to establish an escrow account. Mrs. Brown is requesting the escrow account be setup with an initial \$500. Each fingerprinting scan costs \$105.75. Mrs. Brown said those people who would need to be screened would be certified nurse assistants, healthcare staff, dietary staff and linen staff, and anyone else who would need to go to a

residents room. The scans are 100% reimbursable by the State. The site for the scans will be in the Town of Malta.

Mr. Connelly said as of January 2010 all municipalities will be required to have live scans as well.

**A motion was made by Mr. Richardson, seconded by Mr. Connelly to approve establishing an escrow account for Live Scans to be done through L-1 Enrollment Services in the amount of \$500 upon the approval of the contract from the County Attorney. Unanimous.**

Mrs. Brown gave a brief review of Country Fest as follows: The event was held on June 17<sup>th</sup>. The resident's fund raised \$5,012.62 at the event, compared to last years \$2,250. The money will be used throughout the year for entertainment for the residents of Maplewood Manor.

Mrs. Glenn requested a resolution to amend the Public Health Policy and Procedure Manual.

The amendment to the manual is done on an annual basis as per the requirements of the rules and regulations for the certified home health agencies, Title 10, Chapter V, 753.11, which states that the governing authority shall adopt and amend policies regarding management and operation of the agency and the provision of patient care services.

From July 2008 to July of 2009 there has been one new policy added. This policy allows Public Health staff to administer the prophylactic medication Synagis to those infants and children who are at risk for developing RSV or Respiratory Syncytial Virus, a disease that can result in permanent damage to the respiratory system.

Those that are at risk are referred to Public Health by their physician and receive an injection monthly during the outbreak season, which is October to April. During the period of October through December of 2008 46 injections were administered to 23 individuals.

**A motion was made by Mr. Connelly, seconded by Mr. Wood to approve a resolution to amend the Public Health Policy and Procedures Manual for Public Health as outlined above. Unanimous.**

Mrs. Glenn requested committee approval to enter into a contract with Today's Options.

Today's Options is a Medicare advantage payer. Medicare beneficiaries can opt out of Traditional Medicare coverage for a payer that, in some cases, will include a prescription drug benefit (Medicare Part D) or may offer additional, non-traditional services that will better meet their health care needs.

Medicare Advantage plans usually pay one of two ways, either fee for service or episodic. Fee for service has a co-pay, likely assessed on each visit, and prior approval for each service is usually required.

Some episodic payers have co-pays, which is usually a set percentage of the value of the episode. No prior approvals are required. The episodic payment rates are set by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and are adjusted based upon the geographic location in which the care is provided, and the needs of the patient for each sixty-day episode.

Traditional Medicare, at this time, pays episodically and has no patient co-pays or prior approval requirement.

Public Health has been a non-participating provider with Today's Options for several years. They are starting a Preferred Provider Organization in Saratoga County and are seeking approval for the Provider Network from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The contract would begin in January 2010, with an annual renewal. This needs to be done in advance of their application to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Having this contract will give Public Health access to more patients, and will put Public Health in a stronger position when billing issues need to be resolved.

**A motion was made by Mr. Richardson, seconded by Mr. Wood to Public Health entering into a contract with Today's Options. Unanimous. (Committee Approval only)**

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Chris Sansom