

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE MEETING

January 11, 2010 – 2:00 p.m

PRESENT: Chairman Rowland; Supervisors Collyer, Kinowski, Lucia, Southworth, Wormuth, Yepsen; Spencer Hellwig, Mgmt. Analyst; Diane Brown, Maplewood Manor; Janet Glenn, Public Health; Dale Angstadt, Mental Health; Hugh Burke, Ass't. County Attorney; Brad Sexauer, Vice-President for Strategy & Marketing for Saratoga Hospital; Steve Williams, Daily Gazette

Chairman Rowland called the meeting to order.

Ms. Southworth moved to approve the minutes of the meeting of December 2, 2009. Mr. Lucia seconded. Unanimous.

Chairman Rowland appointed Ms. Wormuth as Vice-Chairman.

Mr. Burke distributed copies of information about the Saratoga County Medicaid Corporate Compliance Program. He said the new Social Services law, 363-D, is to protect from fraud, waste and abuses in the Medicaid program. This is an implementation of policies and procedures to reduce the amount of Medicaid fraud throughout the entire State. The plan sets forth our Compliance Plan, he said. He stated we will have a Compliance Officer for the County and a Board to report to. This includes whistle blower protection for persons who make reports to the Compliance Officer. This plan includes a Code of Conduct. He stated there has already been one meeting of the Compliance Board consisting of Public Health Nursing, Maplewood Manor, Mental Health and the Youth Bureau which are the four County agencies accountable under this program. We thought this should come to this Committee for your information, he said. He stated if an employee is working for a department and they believe they cannot go to their superior, they can go to the Compliance Officer. One of those department heads will rotate in succeeding years, as there is no plan to hire anybody, he said. He stated the County Attorney will be the depository for all of the records.

Ms. Wormuth asked if Personnel has looked at this. Mr. Burke stated Mark Rider met with the Compliance Board, Mr. Wickerham and the Personnel office. They will be part of the implementation of this, he said. Part of this is to be able to get complaints to the proper people. Mr. Rowland said he was on the Personnel Committee, and that committee has not seen this, so maybe it should go in from of them for an awareness. Mr. Burke said there was a deadline of 2009 for this put on by the State, but we have an extension until the end of January.

Mrs. Brown requested approval for a transfer agreement with Wilkinson Residential Facility in Amsterdam, NY in the event we have a disaster. She mentioned the other facilities that Maplewood Manor has transfer agreements with, and she said it behooves us to have as many as we can. She said this agreement would be to accept up to 10 residents in the event of a disaster. We have to look at how many spots we would have

due to particular residents who would be in the hospital for awhile or residents who could go home for a while in the event of an emergency. If it became an issue to find more space, we would do what we could, she said. **Ms. Wormuth moved to approve having a Transfer Agreement with Wilkinson Residential Facility of Amsterdam, NY. Mr. Kinowski seconded. Unanimous. (Committee approval only)**

Mrs. Brown said they are required to have a Committee member attend their Quality Assurance meetings. Ms. Southworth did this last year, and she has offered to do it again. It was the consensus of the Committee to have Ms. Southworth continue to attend Maplewood Manor's Q/A meetings.

Mrs. Glenn requested an amendment to Resolution 180 of 2009. She said in October, she brought before the Committee a contract renewal for the Children with Special Health Care Needs for the Federal fiscal years ending in 2010 – 2012. She said a couple of weeks ago, the signature page they received stated it was a five year grant. She said the resolution would have to be amended to state October 1, 2009 through September 30, 2014. She said this year, their funding is \$26,062, and that is usually that amount every year. She said this provides information and referral services about health and related services to potentially eligible families. She said they do a lot of outreach with her staff. There is no budget impact, as it has already been considered in the budget process. **Mr. Lucia moved to authorize the amendment to Resolution 180-09. Ms. Yepsen seconded. Unanimous.**

Mrs. Glenn requested a **resolution to enter into an agreement with the NYS Department of Health for the Public Health Preparedness Grant (PHEP) for the period 8/10/09 through 8/9/10 to accept funding.** She said this year, the contract combines three focus areas under one contract: Base PHEP; Cities Readiness Initiative (CRI); and H1N1 Planning and Vaccination. This is 100% pass-through Federal funding from the CDC. The maximum amounts are \$58,104 for PHEP; \$71,250 for CRI; \$163,518 for H1N1 Planning and \$401,270 for H1N1 Implementation for a grant total of up to \$694,052. She stated most of the monies are in the 2010 budget under payroll, but when they were preparing their 2010 budget, the exact amount of funding and what the funding could be used for were unknown. There will be a budget impact to the 2010 budget somewhere in the range of \$30,000 to \$50,000, and she will bring the budget amendments to the Committee in a month or two. This will enable them to file claims for services already provided under this grant. **Ms. Wormuth moved to approve this resolution. Mr. Lucia seconded. Unanimous.**

Mr. Kinowski asked what happens if his public officer goes out into some seedy place and falls through the floor or gets injured. How do we cover public officers, he asked. Ms. Wormuth told him his town attorney could best advise him. Mr. Hellwig stated the town has insurance in place, and he said he presumes the town would have coverage to take care of its employees and volunteers.

Ms. Yepsen stated Saratoga Hospital is applying for a grant through the NYS Department of Health. She said this is a five-year proposal, and she requested that the Board write a

letter of recommendation and support without obligation from us. Mr. Sexauer stated they will be submitting a proposal to the NYS DOH for a five-year project with a timeframe of April, 2010 through April, 2015 to promote healthy eating habits in Saratoga County. The funding of \$1.2 million will be provided by the NYS DOH with exception of a required 15% in-kind contribution to be met by partners involved in the project. This project is intended to establish programs to prevent obesity, Type 2 diabetes and other chronic diseases in New York State through the implementation of sustainable policy, systems and environmental changes in communities where people live, work and play. He stated they will work with the Town of Clifton Park. The project will be designed to build upon existing programs and efforts that are currently in place, and we would work with them to add to their existing efforts. An optional project that will be submitted to the DOH will provide technical assistance to 20 small to medium worksites throughout Saratoga County to establish comprehensive worksite wellness programs.

Mr. Kinowski asked why just Clifton Park was targeted. Mr. Sexauer said they selected an area that they could work effectively in, so they just picked one. Mr. Kinowski mentioned there is a Board of School Superintendents, and he wondered why this wasn't focused on them. Mr. Sexauer stated other than Saratoga Springs, Clifton Park is a fairly good size area within the County, and they already had efforts underway. We could not work with everyone, he said. Ms. Yepsen asked if this was a model that could be used with school superintendents. Mr. Sexauer stated this is for the Town of Clifton Park and not the school system, and it certainly can be used within other towns in the County. Mr. Kinowski said he would like to see something like this in his town. Ms. Southworth asked if Clifton Park would be coming to the County looking for a support partner, and Mr. Sexauer stated no.

Mr. Hellwig said this Committee has the greatest amount of activity related to this grant, and he suggested that Mrs. Glenn review and sort through this and make a recommendation back to the Committee, and then she can pen the letter. Mr. Sexauer said they want to get this application together by January 25th. Ms. Wormuth said she does not know if anybody looked at need when this was done, and this might reach a whole other layer of things. If there are other opportunities, it might be helpful to involve this Committee, she stated. Ms. Yepsen suggested that Mr. Sexauer come back and update the Committee if they receive the grant. I would like to see the whole Board support it in writing, she said. Mrs. Glenn said she would share the letter with the Committee.

Chairman Rowland stated that Supervisor Thompson and he did a quick tour of the Mental Health facility, and he asked Mr. Angstadt if the Hospital had any interest in correcting the needs that he has there. Mr. Angstadt stated at this point, there is disagreement on who will pay for upgrades and repair of tile and carpet. He said Rick Gardner (DPW-Bldgs. Dept.) was waiting for a call back from the Hospital's Vice-President. Chairman Rowland recommended that the Committee members stop in to see some of these facilities we are using and are involved with. It was an eye opener for me to see what Mr. Angstadt was talking about, he said.

Mrs. Glenn distributed copies of information on the Public Health Nursing department.

On a motion by Ms. Southworth, seconded by Mr. Collyer, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine M. Sodemann