

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE MEETING

July 12, 2010 – 2:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Chairman Rowland; Supervisors Collyer, Kinowski, Southworth, Wormuth, Yepsen; Spencer Hellwig, Mgmt. Analyst; Janet Glenn, Terrayne Stortz, Alan Kempf, Public Health; Diane Brown, Maplewood Manor; Dale Angstadt, Mental Health

Chairman Rowland called the meeting to order.

Mr. Kinowski moved to approve the minutes of the June 1st meeting. Ms. Southworth seconded. Unanimous.

Mrs. Glenn requested a **resolution to enter into an agreement with the NYS Department of Homeland Security to accept Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) funding.** She explained this past year, 2009-2010, the PHEP funding was split into two funding sources. Up to \$694,052 is being administered by Health Research (HRI) on behalf of DOH. The NYS Department of Homeland Security is administering additional funding of up to \$72,517. We have been informed that this funding, initially to apply to the fiscal period of August 2009 – August 2010, may be extended to apply for us to use the funding over a two-year period, from August 2009 – August 2011. Of this amount, 50% may be used for salary and fringe costs for those employees whose jobs could be lost if this funding was not available. This affects two employees that support PHEP. The remaining funds of \$36,259, may be spent on approved support items. As yet, we have not received any clear guidance from the Homeland Security Department on what those items can be. **Mr. Kinowski moved to approve this resolution. Ms. Southworth seconded. Unanimous.**

Mrs. Glenn moved to request a **resolution amending the Public Health Policy and Procedure Manual.** She stated from July 2009 to July 2010, five new policies and/or procedures were either added or updated:

- Requirement for all employees and contract personnel at Public Health to have the seasonal flu vaccine yearly and any other flu vaccines that are licensed for administration.
- The second policy deals with the administration of intranasal vaccine. This was developed so we could administer that form of the H1N1 vaccine this past season.
- The third policy deals with the overall administration and documentation of immunizations. This policy arose from the implementation of the NYS Immunization Information System (NYSIIS) and the need to enter any immunizations into this statewide database.
- The next procedure deals with the transport of blood samples by agency staff. This was updated to conform to OSHA standards.
- The final procedure deals with the care of patients with pleural catheters.

Ms. Yepsen moved to approve these amendments. Mr. Collyer seconded. Mr. Kinowski said for the first amendment regarding the flu vaccines, can we mandate something without review from the union? Mrs. Glenn said we anticipate we may have to, as there could be an issue. Mr. Kinowski said should we work this out before we approve this resolution? Chairman Rowland said he is not sure where we need to go with this, as this could be getting into a moral or religious issue. He said the County Attorney will need to weigh in on this. **Ms. Yepsen moved to withdraw the motion. Mr. Collyer seconded.**

Ms. Yepsen moved to approve the other four policies and to refer the first policy, regarding mandatory immunizations, to the County Attorney and Personnel Department. Mr. Collyer seconded. Unanimous.

Mrs. Glenn said they continue to re-negotiate with their insurance plans to increase the rates they pay us for Home Care Services. We only need Committee approval (per Res. 139-07) to accept the rates. She requested **approval of increased rates from CDPHP and Empire Blue Cross & Blue Shield.** She stated CDPHP has offered a 3% increase for our Home Care rates, retroactive to 7/1/10, and they have also offered an additional 3% for the Home Care rates effective automatically on 7/1/11. In 2009 and YTD June 2010, CDPHP provided 5% of our total Agency home care visits. This is the second highest Third Party insurer, behind Blue Shield. This contract also provides reimbursement for a variety of Preventative services. For these, there is an across-the-board 3% increase that will be in effect through June, 2012. We anticipate the increased rates will provide an additional \$3,000/yr. or \$1,500 for the remainder of 2010.

Mrs. Glenn said Empire BC & BS has offered increased Home Care rates effective 9/1/10. This is the first offer of additional compensation since we entered into agreement with them in July of 2006. Empire provides approximately 2% of our total Agency Home care visits. The principal services provided in 2009 were Skilled Nursing & Physical Therapy. We anticipate the increased rates will provide an additional \$16,500/yr. or \$5,500 for the remainder of 2010. She mentioned that Alan has worked very hard with Empire on this. We have conferred with Mike Pratt on these rates, and he has recommended that the Committee accept these rates of reimbursement.

Ms. Southworth moved to approve the increased rates from CDPHP and Empire BC & BS. Mr. Kinowski seconded. Unanimous.

Ms. Southworth said the County's Emergency Preparedness Committee meets with Dr. Brooks, and she heard they may be planning a Countywide emergency drill. Ms. Stortz said Saratoga Hospital is planning a tabletop drill on August 2nd for providers of the Countywide Preparedness Committee, but she has not heard anything about a Countywide drill.

Mr. Kinowski stated in his area, DeCresente introduced a wellness center for their employees and members of their families and an annual physical program, and he wondered if the County has ever approached this for employees. Mr. Hellwig stated that Personnel and Blue Shield has this in place, and there have been a couple of initiatives over the years. Ms. Southworth said Blue Shield sends out letters recommending employees get a physical. Mr. Hellwig said the opportunities are there; it's up to the employee to take advantage of them. Chairman Rowland said he received calls from Blue Shield about a health care advisor.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine M. Sodemann