

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE MEETING

October 5, 2010 – 2:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Chairman Rowland; Supervisors Collyer, Kinowski, Lucia, Southworth, Yepsen; Wood; David Wickerham, Co. Administrator; Hugh Burke, Ass't. Co. Attorney; Diane Brown, Maplewood Manor; Janet Glenn, Terrayne Stortz, Alan Kempf, Public Health; Hans Lehr, Mental Health; Steve Williams, Daily Gazette

Chairman Rowland called the meeting to order.

Mr. Lucia moved to approve the minutes of the July 12th meeting. Mr. Collyer seconded. Unanimous.

Mrs. Glenn requested authorization to write-off bad debts in the amount of \$1,286.91. She distributed a copy of their 2010 Bad Debts List. She stated these 12 write-offs represent less than 3/10ths of a percent of the non-Medicare or non-Medicaid home care revenues. She said last year, they wrote off \$938.00. She mentioned none of the accounts/patients are currently active with the agency. The services were provided in 2008 and 2009. Three were for PRI's; six represent Home Care co-pays; two were for flu shots; and one was for adult immunizations. She said they do have a collection process in place. Mr. Burke said every year the amounts are so small that to chase them would be problematic. Mr. Wickerham stated the write-offs allows them to apply to the State's Bad Debt Pool. **Mr. Collyer moved to authorize the Public Health Nursing Service write-offs of \$1,286.91. Mr. Kinowski seconded. Unanimous. (Committee approval only).**

Mrs. Glenn requested a **resolution to enter into an Agreement with NYS DOH for the Lead Program to accept additional funding for the period 4/1/10 to 9/30/10.** She said their 5-year contract for funding for Lead Poisoning Prevention ended on 3/31/10. However, the NYS DOH decided to extend this contract an additional six months under the same contract number for 50% of the value, or \$16,613. We are requesting an amendment to our current resolution (Res. 73-05) because we are at the end of the State's 5-year grant cycle. This will cover the six-month extender of the original five multi-year contract with the State. The State wants to get this contract in line with the federal fiscal year which begins 10/1. She said they have a nurse who dedicates 40% - 50% of her time to this program. She interacts with Head Start programs and offers educational services to schools, DSS, private providers, WIC and library programs and other community organizations. In 2009, 2,915 screenings were reported via LeadWeb. Total abnormal values were 29, she stated. Through September 30th, we have reported screenings of 2,057 children, 11 with blood lead levels of 10 mcg/dl or greater. At this time, the State has not yet awarded the grants for the cycle beginning 10/1. We are awaiting this information and will bring it to you in a future month, she said. **Mr. Lucia moved to authorize an amendment to Res. 73-05 to enter into an Agreement with NYS DOH to accept this additional funding for the period 4/1/10 to 9/30/10. Ms. Southworth seconded. Unanimous.**

Mrs. Glenn stated she would like a resolution to amend the Public Health Policy and Procedure Manual. She said in July, she came to the Committee for a resolution per the requirements of the rules and regulations for the Certified Home Health Agencies. At that time, the Committee had questions regarding the policy on the mandatory flu shots and directed me to speak with Personnel and the County Attorney regarding the ramifications of such a policy, she said. Shortly after that meeting, she said she received notification from the NYS DOH that this will not be a mandate, so therefore, she will not be adding it to the policy manual. She said from July 2009 to July 2010, four new policies were either added or updated:

- The first 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 second policy deals with the overall administration and documentation of immunizations. This policy arose from the implementation of the New York State 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. This is a system by which fluid can be drained from an individual's chest cavity to maintain an adequate respiratory status.

Mr. Collyer moved to authorize these amendments to Public Health's Policy and Procedure Manual. Mr. Kinowski seconded. Unanimous.

Mrs. Glenn said the Supervisors should have received in their mail the schedule of the flu clinics. She said they have scheduled 44 clinics for staff, County employees and the public. We began with the employee clinics on October 1st. To date, we have received 51% of the vaccine we ordered, and we expect no delays in receiving the rest of it, she said. She mentioned a lot of pharmacies are giving the flu shot. She stated Public Health's flu shot is \$15, and they bill almost all insurances.

Mrs. Brown stated in July 2008, they became a participating provider of Univera. As of this date, we have not had a single resident with that insurance. She said Univera is looking to increase their rates. They have a 4-tiered system, and we provide services for 3 levels, and the rate increases are:

- Skilled Nursing, from \$200/day to \$235/day
- Subacute Rehabilitation, from \$277/day to \$375/day
- Subacute Therapy, from \$350/day to \$375/day

Mr. Kinowski moved to accept these rate changes. Ms. Southworth seconded. Unanimous. (Committee approval only).

Chairman Rowland distributed copies of a letter from Wilma Koss, of Saratoga Springs, expressing her gratitude for the loving care and assistance that was given to her mother

while a resident of Maplewood Manor for 2 ½ years. He requested Mrs. Brown to share this with her staff.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine M. Sodemann