

Public Health Committee Minutes

April 11, 2011 – 4:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Wright; Supervisors Lucia, Raymond, Richardson, Southworth and Wood; Spencer Hellwig, Administrator; Ryan Moore, Mgmt. Analyst; Diane Brown, Terri Arpei, Maplewood Manor; Lori Stiles, Public Health.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Richardson, seconded by Mr. Lucia the minutes of the March 1, 2011 meeting were approved unanimously.

Mrs. Brown gave the following overview of how the NYS Budget will affect Maple Manor.

Currently Maplewood Manor is being reimbursed based on 1983 rates. The state had approved a change in the reimbursement to reimburse nursing homes to a 2002 base year and it was to start April of 2009; however, the State never implemented the change. The State is now saying that we will be re-based to the new 2002 base year by July 1, 2011. This, along with the other changes, will result in \$3.8 million in additional revenue.

Mrs. Brown said the State has decided that they now want to do a new nursing home statewide pricing methodology that would be effective sometime between October 1, 2011, and December 1, 2011. There are no details, as yet, about what that will include.

Mrs. Brown said the State has eliminated the trend factor for the first three months of 2011 and has extended the authorization for two years, up to \$300 million annually for the Nursing Home Intergovernmental payments for public nursing homes. The IGT program is where the Social Services Department would give money to the State and then the money would come back to the county, double. If there was \$1 million that went out to Social Services the Nursing Home would get \$2 million, which will have to stay within the nursing home or the services that are provided. Mrs. Brown said they do not know at this point what the amount will be, but it was positive to see that they feel that public nursing homes do need additional assistance.

Mrs. Brown said the state would be eliminating the hospital bed hold unless the nursing home enrolls 50% or more of their eligible residents into a Medicaid/Managed Care Program effective 1/1/2012.

The nursing home assessment currently at 6% will be in effect until March 31, 2013. There will be an additional 1.1%, non-reimbursed assessment, beginning April 1, 2011, which will then drop to 1% in April of 2012, and then go to .8% and eventually to 0. Right now that impacts any cash that will be received as of April 1, 2011, so that is going to impact the \$3.8 million, she said. The county will have to pay a 7.2% cash assessment

of approximately \$275,000, but we will still have over \$3 million in additional revenue coming in.

Mr. Hellwig said the county is moving \$6 million out of the general fund to cover this, so that will cut the transfer in half.

Mrs. Brown said a letter is being sent to all private pay patients, stating that the cash assessment will be increasing from 6% to 7.2%.

Mrs. Brown said the elimination of the hospital bed hold is of real concern, and the full impact will not be known until January of 2012. Currently, if a resident goes out to a hospital and they are a Medicaid resident and have been in the facility for thirty days Medicaid will hold their bed at the nursing home for up to 14 days in a twelve-month period. The State is now saying that 50% of our residents would have to be on a Medicare/Managed Care Program in order for the bed hold to still be in effect. The reason for this is that these people are more likely to stay in the nursing home for care, as opposed to traditional Medicare where they are likely go out to the hospital more frequently. Mrs. Brown said if we can't get 50% and resident goes out to a hospital they will lose their bed hold right away. This means that unless they want to privately pay, their belongings are packed and someone else could be admitted to that bed and the person would have to wait until another bed becomes available, or possibly go to another nursing home. Mr. Wright asked what percentage of the residents are on a Medicare/Managed Care Program? Mrs. Brown said, currently Maplewood Manor has less than 5% of their residents on a Medicare/Managed Care Program.

Ms. Raymond asked how much a Medicare/Managed Care Program costs? Mrs. Brown said a lot of times there aren't additional expenses to the resident. It is just a different type of insurance that you will have to convince the resident or their family member that it is the way they need to go. Mrs. Brown said she would be attending a program about this in May where she will be able to find out more about the program. Ms. Raymond said, families and residents should be made aware of this change.

Mrs. Brown said there were three cases of bad debt where she worked closely with the County Attorney's office to resolve. She said approximately \$100,000 of debt was collected.

Mrs. Brown said every month there is a meeting to go through the accounts of all residents that owe the nursing home. A letter is sent from Maplewood Manor to the resident or family member and then after that if there is no response it is forwarded to the County Attorney and a second letter is sent.

Mr. Richardson suggested that Mrs. Brown determine what the threshold should be before action is taken with regard to outstanding debts from residents. Mrs. Brown said she would do some research on the thresholds and report back to the committee at next months meeting.

Mrs. Brown said Senior Whole Health is a managed care program. In August of 2007 a contract was signed with them. The county has never had any residents with this insurance, she said. A regulatory addendum for the contract regarding anti discrimination, HIPPA requirements, Fraud and Abuse, non-discrimination, co-payment information and managed care information was received. Mrs. Brown said she is hopeful they will see some people with this insurance. A rate will be renegotiated once people are ready to come to the nursing home. Mrs. Brown said with some of the contracts you would get paid more depending on the level of service. Level one would be in lieu of hospitalization at a pay rate of \$425/day, she said.

A motion was made by Ms. Raymond, seconded by Mrs. Southworth to approve residents of Maplewood Manor to carry Senior Whole Health Insurance. Unanimous. (Committee Approval Only)

The following were 2010 accomplishments that took place at Maplewood Manor:

- Revised employee injury program including forms, policies and procedures. Began installation of ceiling lifts as part of this program The ceiling lift installation was completed in January 2011 and payment has been received in the amount of \$82,080.09 for the grant.
- Participated in a grant for nursing department education with area facilities through Excelsior College. Completed the first phase of the educational modules with certified nursing assistants.
- Developed a “pod system” for delivery of care. This allows for “real time” documentation from certified nursing assistants and improves providing partners to perform care together.
- Implemented “standards of care” care planning for entire facility.
- Developed a volunteer “sensory” program with RSVP to work with residents who are unable to actively participate in-group activity programs.
- Trained activity staff on oxygen use, which allows more residents to go on activity outings.
- Implemented email as a communication tool amongst the head nurses and supervising nurses.
- Invited community into the facility for monthly discussions on “caring for and losing a loved one”.
- BINGO board was donated to the residents who live on the third floor. Had a dedication program to thank the members of the two village fire departments who donated the board.

- Converted from the MDS 2.0 resident assessment program to MDS 3.0 in October 2010. All appropriate staff members were in-serviced on the changes. RN responsibilities were revised to establish MDS nurses to complete the nurses' sections of the MDS.

Mrs. Brown requested a resolution recognizing National Nursing Home Week May 8-14, 2011 and acknowledging the services by all Saratoga County Nursing Homes.

A motion was made by Mr. Richardson, seconded by Mr. Lucia to approve a resolution recognizing National Nursing Home Week May 8-14, 2011, and acknowledging the services by all Saratoga County Nursing Homes. Unanimous.

Mrs. Brown said the Employee Meal Plan has been phased out since 1981. Any employees that were hired after January 1, 1981 are not eligible. In addition, the meal plan is not provided to those who work the 11:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. shift. There are currently four employees that are qualified with two who are interested. The current cost per meal is \$2.75. After calculating the cost per meal it was felt that \$2.75 was still adequate to cover the costs. Mrs. Brown is recommending that the cost of the meals remain at \$2.75.

A motion was made by Lucia, seconded by Ms. Raymond the approve the current cost of \$2.75 per meal for the Employee Meal Plan at Maplewood Manor for 2011. Unanimous.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom