

Public Health Committee Minutes  
September 12, 2011 – 4:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Wright; Supervisors Daly, Lucia, Raymond, Richardson, Southworth and Collyer; Ryan Moore, Mgmt. Analyst; Hans Lehr, Mental Health; Diane Brown, Maplewood Manor; Karin Levison, Public Health; Bob Wilcox, County Attorney; George Martin, Treasurer's Office.

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

**On a motion made by Mrs. Southworth, seconded by Mr. Lucia the minutes of the August 8, 2011 meeting were approved unanimously.**

Mrs. Brown presented the following recommendations from the Public Health Subcommittee with regard to changes to the Public Health Policy and Procedures:

1. The potential resident must have a Power of Attorney who resides in New York State. If the potential resident cannot complete a Power of Attorney document then a guardianship must be in place.
2. The application for Medicaid must be together and submitted to Medicaid prior to admission.
3. The resident's income would need to be transferred upon completion of paperwork. If Medicaid determines that a portion or none of it goes toward their care than the County Treasurer will refund back to the spouse any remaining money. Mrs. Brown said the good thing about this is, if there is anything in arrears it can be satisfied before any money is given back.
4. Mrs. Brown said since the late fee percentage really can't fluctuate, the recommendation would be to include a percentage in the policy and procedures. The reason that it can't fluctuate is that the resident is going to sign a financial agreement which will have a percentage amount in it, and every resident cannot have a different percentage. The amount that will be charged will be reasonable, she said.
5. Mrs. Brown said the policy would be changed so that the County Attorney would discuss the cases with the Chairman of the Public Health Committee and the County Administrator to determine whether legal action will be taken.
6. In revising the application, it will include very detailed financial information, where the Facility Screener is going to be working with the hospital. Every potential resident in the hospital and at home will receive copies that will need to be filled out, including providing any copies of documents, trusts, etc., along with the application.

**A motion was made by Mr. Richardson, seconded by Mrs. Southworth to approve the revisions to the Public Health Policy and Procedures as outlined above and to forward them on to the Law and Finance Committee for approval. Unanimous.**

Mrs. Brown said last month she brought to the committee the Blue Shield of Northeastern New York Contract, and in that there was a September 1, 2011, January 1, 2012 and a January 1, 2013 increase. These were all approved and all the documents were sent out and signed and then Blue Shield came back and said they had made a mistake. Mrs. Brown said because we agreed to the January 1, 2012 increase which were substantially more than the increases for September, we don't want to do the September increase, we just want to wait until January 1, 2012, leaving things as they are until then. The impact, thus far, in 2011 of \$20,000 has been filled, with one resident on that insurance plan. The change would be under \$1,000 if there was any change at all, she said. The difference rates are as follows: Current rate \$220/day; September rate \$242/day; January rate for 2012 \$260/day. For level 2 the rate is currently \$250/day, beginning January 2012 the rate will be \$294/day.

Mrs. Brown requested a revision to the Blue Shield of Northeastern New York Contract with no increase on September 1, 2011, and to go to the new rates in January 2012.

**A motion was made by Mr. Lucia, seconded by Mr. Richardson to adopt the new rates to the Blue Shield of Northeastern New York Contract. Unanimous.**  
(Committee approval only)

Mrs. Brown said she has been approached by an association to participate in a pilot project for technology. In the pilot project we would have to invest in printers and the tags for the printers. In exchange for that, we would be going to an automated physician ordering system. The pharmacy's expense would be all the software and the grant would pay for all the training and the evaluation of the program. A number of nursing homes have been approached with this and they would like to begin in January of 2012. The cost involved would be \$2,000 for the printer costs and \$360 for the labels, benefits would include less chance for errors and eliminating some overtime, she said.

Ms. Levison said Public Health was asked by Fidelis Care to amend the contract to some standard clauses. The amendment would clarify now what they consider to be Healthcare Services versus Personal Care Services. They have always been paid for both programs, of which one is under the certified Home Health Care Department and the other was under Long Term Care. In addition to that, they have also included the New York State standard clauses for Medicaid/Managed Care and those are clauses that are being attached to every contract. This amendment has been reviewed and approved by the County Attorney, she said.

**A motion was made by Mr. Lucia, seconded by Ms. Daly to approve the amendments to the Fidelis Care Contract with Public Health as stated above. Unanimous.**

**On a motion made by Ms. Daly, seconded by Ms. Raymond the meeting was adjourned unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Chris Sansom