

Public Health Committee Minutes  
February 13, 2012 – 4:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Wright; Supervisors Raymond, Kinowski, Veitch, Southworth, and Grattidge; Ryan Moore, Mgmt. Analyst; Sandi Fischer, Diane Brown, Maplewood Manor; Karen Levison, Public Health; George Martin, Treasurer; Bob Wilcox, County Attorney; Hans Lehr, Mental Health; Press.

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

**On a motion made by Ms. Raymond, seconded by Mr. Veitch the minutes of the January 9, 2012 meeting were approved unanimously.**

Mr. Wright said Chairman Wood appointed a subcommittee in December of 2011 to look into Maplewood Manor and some of the issues that deal with the budget deficit. The committee has met several times over the past six weeks to discuss options. Discussions have taken place with other counties that are going through the same process, with some of them deciding to stay in the business and others deciding to get out of the business and some still undecided. Meetings have taken place with the Executive Director of NYSAC to better understand what other counties are doing. Discussions have taken place with some firms that have the expertise in helping counties decide what to do with their nursing homes and help them to decide whether they are going to stay in the business and how they can save money. At this time an RFP is being established to hire a consultant to list all options and to decide what ones are best for Saratoga County. The RFP will be released within the next couple of days, with a consulting firm hired by March. It is anticipated that the report will take between four and six months to complete. Mr. Wright said there has absolutely been no decisions made except to put an RFP out to hire a consultant.

Mrs. Brown said there are 30 cases that have been put on the bad debt list for 2011. The changes in the application and protocol began in September, and as a result of that there have been no new cases.

Ms. Levison said the new rates negotiated with Blue Shield of Northeastern New York for March 1, 2012 are as follows:

Skilled Nursing	\$162/visit to \$172/visit
Physical Therapy	\$98/visit to \$100/visit
Occupational Therapy	\$91/visit to \$93/visit
Social Worker	\$85/visit to \$85/visit
Speech Therapy	\$93/visit to \$95/visit
Home Health Aide	\$43.39/hr to \$50/hr

She said these rates would be effective for one year.

Ms. Levison said there is concern about Fidelis Care because they were actually getting 2007 Medicaid rates. She said she was happy to report that she has been able to work with them to obtain 2010 Medicaid reimbursement rates. As soon as the State posts the final rates for 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011 we will be able to go back and recoup from Fidelis as far as Medicaid is concerned. It is anticipated that the finals will be out sometime in 2012.

Ms. Levison said she expects a new rate proposal from Excellus Blue Cross/Blue Shield by mid March. There has been no response from CDPHP, MVP or Empire, she said.

**A motion was made by Mr. Grattidge, seconded by Mr. Kinowski to adopt the new negotiated reimbursement rates as outlined. Unanimous.**

Ms. Levison said by changing the way STD testing is being done they would be able to reduce the cost from \$16/ 3 specimens down to \$2.50 a test.

Ms. Levison said currently Public Health is billing third party insurance and Medicaid without charging patients for copays. Private Insurance has suggested that copays are part of the contract with the insured and should be charged for all eligible services. The concern is that patients will not accept visits if required to pay copays, especially younger moms. Visits are used for identifying potential problems and making sure the mothers know about available resources. Usually, there is just an initial assessment of the mother and baby. A referral for potential problems is given if required. Staff time to collect and process billing exceeds current revenue per visit. Public Health is recommending that Medicaid projects be billed, but that third party insurance not be billed, charging nurse staff time to State aid.

Mr. Lehr requested the following three resolutions:

A resolution to amend the current contract with Burnt Hills Ballston Lake Community Human services Corporation for provision of Respite Services. Respite is defined as a service that allows the children's caretaker(s) a needed quality, supervised break from day to day stress. Community Human Services agrees to provide hourly respite at a rate of \$39 per hour plus activities fees not to exceed \$15 per episode. This is 100% State Aid and already in the 2012 budget.

A resolution to amend the 2012 contract with Transitional Services Association, Inc. to conform to the funding codes/accounts reflected in the 2012 County Budget. There will be no budget impact.

A resolution to increase the 2012 budget by \$4 to match the current NY OMH State Aid for Integrated Employment Services provided by Saratoga Bridges NYSARC, Inc. The \$4 was accidentally not included in the initial budget allocation. This is 100% OMH State aid.

**On a motion made by Mr. Grattidge, seconded by Mr. Veitch the above resolutions were approved unanimously.**

Mr. Veitch thanked Ms. Levison and the Public Health staff for their help with the bed bug issues in Saratoga Springs.

**On a motion made by Mr. Grattidge, seconded by Mrs. Southworth the meeting was adjourned to Executive Session for the purpose of Contract Negotiations. Unanimous.**

No action was taken.

**On a motion made by Mr. Veitch, seconded by Ms. Raymond the meeting was adjourned.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Chris Sansom