

Public Health Committee Minutes
May 1, 2012 – 4:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Wright; Supervisors Raymond, Kinowski, Veitch, Southworth and Yepsen; Ryan Moore, Mgmt. Analyst; George Martin, Treasurer; Hans Lehr, Mental Health; Karen Levison, Public Health; Diane Brown, Maplewood Manor; Pat Reed, League of Women Voters; Press.

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

On a motion made by Mrs. Southworth, seconded by Mr. Veitch the minutes of the April 9, 2012 meeting were approved unanimously.

Mrs. Brown said discussions have taken place with regard to applicants who have some money, but not enough money for five years, and what happens when they apply for Medicaid and are denied because they have too much money.

Mr. Wright said the reason this is coming up now is because last September a new policy was formed on admittance to Maplewood Manor. There have been some issues with that policy where there are some pretty good residents that look like they could actually be admitted, but the policy will not allow their admittance at this time. Mr. Wright said he is looking to have a subcommittee that would look at applications and if approved by Mrs. Brown, the committee would be able to move forward to admit them. This initiative has been considered in order to fill empty beds, he said.

Mr. Kinowski suggested adding that extenuating circumstances would allow excess time, via committee review to the policy language.

Mr. Veitch asked what the rationale was in what was done in the first place. Mr. Wright said the reason that the policy that is in place now was put into place was because there was a lot of bad debt. There were people being admitted before they had their Medicaid application done and then a family member was refusing to do a full Medicaid application and the bad debt had become over \$1 million. Since this policy has been in effect, we have taken on no more bad debt, so the policy is working; however, it is creating a problem of empty beds where there are some pretty good people that we could put in these beds if we could get them in there, he said.

Ms. Raymond made a recommendation that the Vacancy Review Committee be made up of primarily elected officials. She suggested using the second grouping of three elected officials and two appointed, which would include the Chairman of the Board or his designee.

A motion was made by Ms. Raymond, seconded by Mr. Kinowski to approve an amendment to the admittance policy at Maplewood Manor to include a waiting period of up to 14 days for review of an applicant's application. Unanimous.

Mrs. Brown requested a revision to the Collection Policy and Procedures to include six months of private pay be collected in advance.

Mr. Wright said the Medicaid application is required to be filled out up front even if the individual were to come in on private pay for two years.

Mr. Wright said it was suggested by the County Attorney to revise the collection policy to read that if an individual is going to be private pay that six months of payments be collected in advance if available.

A motion was made by Mr. Veitch, seconded by Ms. Raymond to revise the Collection Policy and Procedure to include that six months of private pay payments will be collected in advance if available. Unanimous.

Ms. Yepsen requested an update from the Maplewood Manor subcommittee. Mr. Wright said the consultants are working on it and have said there will be a report by August. The subcommittee to hire the consultant has been disbanded and the consultant will report back to the full committee.

On a motion made by Ms. Raymond, seconded by Mrs. Southworth the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom