

Public Health Committee Minutes  
November 8, 2012 – 2:30 p.m.

Present: Chairman Wright; Supervisors Raymond, Veitch, Southworth, Grattidge, Yepsen, Hargrave, Rowland, Richardson and Wood; Ryan Moore, Mgmt. Analyst; Frank McClement, Andrew Davis, Veterans Agency; Hans Lehr, Mental Health; Michelle Richardson, Lori Stiles, Karen Levison, Public Health; Diane Brown, Maplewood; Hugh Burke, County Attorney; Sam Pitcherelle, Treasurer; 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. Raymond, seconded by Mrs. Southworth the minutes of the October 24, 2012 meeting were approved unanimously.**

Mrs. Brown said currently Maplewood Manor has a contract with Empire Blue Cross and they have not had any revenue for 2012 with this insurance. She said last year there were 111 days paid through insurance. There are three levels of care and they are proposing an increase. The first level is \$250/day and they would be willing to go to \$275; level two is currently \$350 and they are willing to go to \$450, and level three is at \$550 and it will stay at \$550. Mrs. Brown said they have never had anyone at level three. She said last year of the 111 days, 53 of them were at the level two care and the remaining were at level one. These increases would be effective December 1, 2012. The \$275 is below the private pay rate, but it is above the Medicaid rate, she said.

**A motion was made by Mr. Grattidge, seconded by Ms. Raymond to approve the increase in the levels of care through Empire Blue Cross as described above. Unanimous.**

Mr. Davis said in July an advisory committee was developed to take a look at a program that the State Senate and State Mental Health proposed. The advisory committee consisted of Mental Health Professionals as well as Veteran Service Organization representatives. Through discussions and after going through the Defense Center of Excellence Peer to Peer research plan it was decided that there was no way a program of this magnitude could be administered without at least a part time staff member with some extensive Mental Health experience. This individual would be 17 ½ hours or less on staff with their sole role to oversee the Mental Health referral process of the Veterans who are entering the program and to also mentor the Mentors and Mentees relationship and oversee training moving forward over the two year life of the program.

Mr. Lehr said the person would be hired with the understanding that when the money is gone this position would be gone. Mr. Davis said the grant is for \$200,000, minus \$20,000 that has to be paid to the SUNY Albany School of Social Work and \$180,000 would come to Saratoga County with approximately one quarter of that amount going to salaries.

**A motion was made by Ms. Raymond, seconded by Mr. Grattidge to approve a resolution to enter into an agreement with the Saratoga County Veterans Affairs to accept a one-time addition of \$180,000 100% OMH State Aid funding, effective 7/1/12, per NYS Senate initiative Special Legislative Grant. Unanimous.**

Ms. Levison reported a total of \$796 in bad debt for Public Health. She said one was a PRI and the other was a whole family who had travel immunizations that were denied as it was a contract exclusion. She said Mr. Burke has received everything and sent out multiple letters.

Ms. Raymond said she has a problem with someone who receives travel shots that the county is going to write off as a bad debt. She suggested that the County take the individuals to Small Claims Court.

Mr. Burke said it is not economically feasible to chase after \$170. Ms. Raymond asked if they were in the area. Mr. Burke said they may be in the area, but our responsibilities include chasing tens of thousands of dollars versus \$150.

**A motion was made by Ms. Raymond, seconded by Mrs. Southworth that if the family is still in the county, that they be taken to Small Claims Court for failure to pay \$626 to the county for Immunizations they received through the Saratoga County Department of Public Health, and to write-off the remaining PRI bad debt. Unanimous.**

Ms. Levison said the Palliative Care Policy that states that when a person is nearing the end of their life and palliative care is being considered as an option for them that there is a policy in the policy book that says we have discussed those options with the family.

Ms. Levison said the Home Care Registry is a registry of Home Health Aides of when they come and go. She said the current Home Health Aides both have close to 20 or more years with Public Health. A policy has not been done to date, she said.

**A motion was made by Mr. Grattidge, seconded by Mr. Veitch to approve a policy on the Home Care Registry and Palliative Care. Unanimous.**

**On a motion made by Mrs. Southworth, seconded by Mr. Veitch the meeting was adjourned unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Chris Sansom

