

Public Health Committee Minutes
August 12, 2013 – 4:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Kinowski; Supervisors Raymond, Sausville, Southworth, Veitch, Wood, Wormuth, and Grattidge; Ryan Moore, Mgmt. Analyst; Diane Brown, Maplewood Manor; Karen Levison, Public Health; Brian O'Connor, Auditor; Sam Pitcherelle, Treasurer; Hans Lehr, Mental Health, Wes Carr, Youth Bureau; Steve Dorsey, County Attorney.

Chairman Kinowski 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 July 8, 2013 meeting were approved unanimously.

Ms. Levison requested approval of an agreement for home visits for the "Feed My Baby" Survey, working through the CDC to monitor the growth of children in the WIC program. Ms. Levison said she negotiated the current Medicaid rate with them at \$158 per visit.

A motion was made by Mr. Wood, seconded by Mr. Veitch to approve an agreement for home visits for "Feed My Baby" Survey at a rate of \$158 per visit. Unanimous.

Ms. Levison said there are approximately 300 children enrolled in the Early Intervention Program with over 120 providers with agreements to provide services with the State of New York. The annual costs are approximately \$2.5 million, with the county obligation of \$834,918 or 33.8%.

Ms. Levison said last year during the Governor's budget bill (2013-2014) there was a major change that the providers would now be under contract with the State and not under contract with the local municipalities. When that happened, there was a collapse of the payment system. The primary reason for the collapse was due to the fact that the NYSEIS software program was found to not interface with Medicaid leaving counties with no access to financial reports. NYSDOH has been unable to facilitate greater revenue collection from commercial insurance carriers, and was not able to provide guidance to commercial insurance carriers until July 8, 2013 for something that began on April 1, 2013.

Ms. Levison said that NYSDOH is now requesting advanced payments to providers to cover the delay in payment from commercial insurance while problems are worked out in the system. She said this is an emergency and the counties are being asked by DOH to put approximately \$148,000 into an escrow account which will be used to pay providers approximately 75% of the claims that they have tried to submit through the NYSEIS system for commercial insurance and have not been reimbursed.

The following recommendations have been made:

- Motion to recognize that providing the services to the children of Saratoga County is first priority
- Motion to recognize the outstanding services provided to these children and support for the service providers who should not be put in a position of financial hardship due to the inability of the NYSDOH to administer the program
- Motion to deny the request for advanced payment to the NYSDOH due to inability of NYSDOH to correct issues with no guarantee of the ability to properly manage the payments to providers and repayment to counties without additional advanced payments or additional administrative oversight of the county
- Motion to urge the Governor's office to intervene and provide "emergency" advanced funds to NYSDOH to prevent the collapse of the service provider network
- Motion to demand that the NYSDOH take immediate steps at all costs to resolve the current issues within the program and/or return the administration of the program to the counties with full re-payment of administrative funding previously reduced to shift administrative burden to the State of New York.

A motion was made by Mrs. Southworth, seconded by Mrs. Wormuth to approve a resolution drafted by the County Attorney and to include the above recommendations. Unanimous.

Mrs. Brown said in mid-July the Medicaid Biller at Maplewood Manor resigned. Mrs. Brown said the Lancaster Group has been doing the Medicaid billing for the past month through a minor contract of \$9,500/mo. She is requesting approval to extend the contract with Lancaster Group to provide billing services for Maplewood Manor. A 60 day clause would be written into the contract, whereby, the county would have to notify Lancaster Group if they did not want to continue the contract, she said.

A motion was made by Mr. Sausville, seconded by Mr. Veitch to move forward with a contract with Lancaster Group to provide Medicaid Billing for Maplewood Manor at a cost of \$9,500/mo. Unanimous.

Mrs. Brown said there is an escrow account of \$500 with L-1 Identity Solutions, Inc. for them to do fingerprint checks of employees at Maplewood Manor. She said the cost for a fingerprint check is \$102.25; therefore a request is being made to increase the escrow account to \$2,500.

A motion was made by Mr. Veitch, seconded by Mrs. Wormuth to increase the escrow account with L-1 Identity Solutions, Inc. for fingerprinting of employees at Maplewood Manor from \$500 to \$2,500. Unanimous.

Mr. Lehr requested an agreement with Warren County to provide Home Based Crisis Intervention Services to the county. This is 100% State money, he said. The intent of the project is to keep indolence out of hospitals.

A motion was made by Mr. Wood, seconded by Mrs. Wormuth to enter into an agreement with Warren County to provide Home Based Crisis Intervention Services to the County, upon approval of the County Attorney. Unanimous.

Mr. Lehr said currently the Mental Health Clinic is only authorized to receive interns and/or student placements from SUNY Albany School of Social Work. He said over time, they have had other schools and local residents approach them with regard to doing a placement with the Mental Health Clinic, and they are currently not authorized to do that.

Mr. Lehr is requesting the authorization to accept student placements from other legitimate institutions, either regionally accredited or NYS registered that meet the requirements.

A motion was made by Mrs. Southworth, seconded by Ms. Raymond to approve agreements with accredited colleges or universities to accept student placements at the Saratoga County Mental Health Center. Unanimous.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom