

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE MINUTES

DECEMBER 5, 2007 – 3:30 P.M.

Present: Chairman Sausville; Supervisors Callanan, Hunter, Janik and Yepsen; Spencer Hellwig, Mgmt. Analyst; Janet Glenn, Alan Kempf, Terry Stortz, Public Health; Diane Brown, Maplewood Manor; Dale Angstadt, Mental Health; Press.

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

**On a motion made by Mr. Hunter, seconded by Ms. Yepsen the minutes of the November 7, 2007 meeting were approved unanimously.**

Mrs. Glenn requested a resolution authorizing increases in the contract rates for Physical Therapists, effective January 1, 2008. Last year a request was made by the Physical Therapists to increase their rates. The last time the rates were increased was in January of 2006. After being reviewed by the county Contract Administrator and compared to similar agencies that cover the county, the following rates have been recommended:

<u>From</u>		<u>To:(Rates in effect for 2008)</u>
\$75 Per initial patient visit requiring documentation without Public Health Nurse, including mileage. <b>(PT Only)</b>	\$77	Per initial patient visit, requiring OASIS for Start of Care, (without Public Health Nurse), including mileage. <b>(PT Only)</b>
\$55 Per patient visit, including mileage. No OASIS completed.	\$57	Patient initial or re-visit, including mileage. No OASIS completed.
\$60 Per patient visit, including mileage OASIS for recertification, ROC or discharge completed.	\$62	Per patient visit, including mileage. OASIS for recertification, ROC or Discharge completed.
\$12 Per attempt to make a patient visit, including mileage. No service provided.	\$12	Per attempt to make a patient visit, including mileage, No service provided.
\$5 Additional for any visit, including mileage, made in the Towns of Day Edinburg, Hadley or Waterford.	\$6	Additional for any visit, including mileage, made in the Towns of Day, Edinburg, Hadley or Waterford.
\$30 Attendance at required meetings, inservices or training.	\$32	Attendance at required meetings, inservices, or training.

**A motion was made by Mr. Callanan, seconded by Mr. Hunter to approve a resolution accepting the increases in Physical Therapy rates as stated above, effective January 1, 2008. Unanimous.**

Mrs. Glenn requested a resolution to increase the compensation for the County Medical Director, Dr. Del Giacco, from \$36,878 to \$38,169, effective January 1, 2008. This would be a 3.5% increase.

Mrs. Glenn said Dr. Del Giacco provides advice and direction to the entire agency, both the certified agency and public health prevention. He helps to make medical decisions when needed and is the consultant that oversees the Handicapped Children's Program and chairs the Quality Assurance Committee. He is on site and in the building monthly for the TB clinic, where he sees patients. Frequent contact throughout the week takes place with regard to TB issues and other agency issues. Approximately 36% of his compensation is state aid reimbursable, with the remaining county cost. A nominal amount of the reimbursement comes from home care revenue. This increase reviewed by the contract administrator is reflected in the 2008 budget.

**A motion was made by Mr. Callanan, seconded by Ms. Yepsen to approve a resolution to increase the compensation for the county Medical Director, Dr. Del Giacco from \$36,878 to \$38,169, effective January 1, 2008. Unanimous.**

Mrs. Glenn requested a resolution authorizing increases in the hourly rates for Home Health Agencies, effective January 1, 2008.

Mrs. Glenn said currently Public Health contracts with six Aide Agencies. Three of them have submitted rate increases for 2008 as follows:

**Gentiva**

<b><u>FROM</u></b>	<b><u>TO: (Rates frozen for min. 2 years)</u></b>
\$16.42 Per hour of Aide Service: HHA	\$18.48 Per hour of Aide Service: HHA
\$24.59 Holiday rate for above services	\$27.72 Holiday rate for above services
\$16.25 Per hour of Aide Service: PCA or homemaker	\$18.29 Per hour of Aide Service: PCA or homemaker
\$24.39 Holiday rate for above services	\$27.44 Holiday rate for above services

**Greater Adirondack Home Aides (GAHA)**

<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>
\$25.04 Per hour of Aide Service: HHA, PCA or homemaker	\$25.54 Per hour to Aide service: HHA, PCA or homemaker

**Visiting Nurses Home Care**

<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>
\$19.13 Per hour of Aide Service: HHA, PCA or homemaker	\$19.70 Per hour of Aide Service: HHA, PCA or homemaker
\$27.87 Holiday rate for above services	\$28.71 Holiday rate for above services

**Authorized Mileage**

(Now fixed at the prevailing IRS Rate)

\$0.485 When authorized by Public Health

**Authorized Mileage**

(Now fixed at the prevailing IRS rate)

\$0.505 When authorized by Public Health

**A motion was made by Mr. Janik, seconded by Mr. Hunter to approve rate increases for three Aide Agencies as described above, effective January 1, 2008. Unanimous.**

Mrs. Glenn requested a resolution to enter into an agreement with the New York State Department of Health to accept a Bio-terrorism grant in the amount of \$172,452 for the period 8/31/07 through 8/09/08. This is the sixth year of funding through the Department of Health. There were significant changes in the grant this year, which included a shortened grant period by three weeks and a reduction in the amount of the base grant. For five years the county has received \$200,635. This year that amount has been reduced to \$172,452.

The following is a list of activities that took place in 2007:

1. Established the MRC (Medical Reserve Corps) and continue to recruit volunteers. To date, there are approximately 68 medical volunteers.
2. Provided in-services and training for both medical and non-medical volunteers.
3. Established a Community Animal Response Team (CART) with partners, Cooperative Extension, local veterinarians and the Emergency Services office.
4. Held a Point of Dispensing (POD) drill at Wilton Medical Arts, December 2006. This drill assisted Public Health staff and partners in the testing of abilities to mass vaccinate.
5. Continued to fit test (sizing of facemasks) staff and local law enforcement with personal protective equipment (PPE).

6. Continued to certify staff in National Incident Management System (NIMS) and the required Incident Command System (ICS) courses.
7. Conducted a required communications drill utilizing key response staff with the NYS Health Provider Network (HPN).
8. Key staff attended and presented at an Epidemiological Surveillance Training summer, 2007.
9. Though the countywide Emergency Preparedness Committee, two subgroups were established – Pan Flu Preparedness subcommittee and the Special Needs Sheltering subcommittee.
10. Participated with the Office of Emergency Services (OES) on the Special Needs Sheltering Registry. The registry is coordinated and maintained by OES.

Plans for the New Grant year are as follows:

1. Normally there are deliverables that have to be met. This year there were 25 maintenance deliverables. There will be 12 new deliverables to be met.
2. There will be continued focus on further training of staff and volunteers in the upper level courses of the Incident Command System and the National Incident Management System.
3. Training and fit testing more staff and key individuals from other organizations (Sheriff Department/local police) in PPE protection.
4. More training and drills for mass distribution of medications or vaccine, refining processes and adding more criteria for evaluation.
5. More work to further refine disease surveillance.
6. There will be a large emphasis on education of the public and community partners (schools, businesses, municipal services, etc.).
7. Work will be done to improve delivery of information, which includes increasing the speed of evaluating, integrating and analyzing health data.
8. Working to increase the knowledge of and efficiency of disease surveillance to facilitate early detection.
9. Communications and requirements to further drill communication response.
10. Responder safety and health
11. Further work on isolation and quarantine

12. Further work on mass prophylaxis and surge capacity
13. Review of roles and responsibilities as it relates to sheltering of special needs populations
14. Further work on the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) plan
15. Train more staff in psychological first aid
16. Focus more on regional training for incident response
17. Further work on epidemiological surveillance and electronic transmission of photos and related data
18. Ongoing recruitment of medical and general volunteers

**A motion was made by Ms. Yepsen, seconded by Mr. Callanan to approve a resolution to accept a Bio-terrorism grant in the amount of \$172,452 for the grant period 8/31/07 through 8/09/08. Unanimous.**

Mrs. Glenn stated, there were 33 flu clinics held thus far for the year, with 2,630 doses of the vaccine given to date. Clinics are currently being conducted at the Woodlawn Avenue office. Mrs. Glenn said that this year it appears that all of the vaccine will be used, which has not happened in recent years.

Mrs. Glenn thanked the committee for their support and guidance throughout the year.

Mrs. Brown said there is a Physical Therapy contract that expires on December 31, 2007. After speaking with the company they are proposing a 3% increase in 2008 and a 2-1/2% increase in 2009. The contract administrator thought that was very reasonable. The current rate is \$44.03/hr. and will go to \$45.35/hr. for 2008; and from \$45.35/hr. to \$46.40/hr. for 2009. Mrs. Brown requested a resolution to approve the 3% increase for 2008 and the 2-1/2% for 2009.

**A motion was made by Mr. Callanan, seconded by Mr. Janik to approve a resolution to accept a contract renewal for a Physical Therapy Consultant with a 3% pay increase from \$44.03/hr. to \$45.03/hr. for 2008; and a 2 1/2% increase from \$45.35/hr. to \$46.40/hr. for 2009. Unanimous.**

Mrs. Brown said last month she came to the committee with the contract for GHI. After further review it was noticed that some of the rates were slightly higher than the original rates. The following are the new rates:

<u>Commercial PPO</u>	<u>Rate</u>
Level 1        - Basic Skilled Nursing	\$300 per diem
Level 11      - Skilled Nursing Rehab	\$400 per diem

Level 111	- Sub-Acute Rehab	\$525 per diem
Level 1V	- Sub – Acute Respiratory	\$600 per diem

**Commercial HMO**

**Rate**

Level 1	- Basic Skilled Nursing	\$275 per diem
Level 11	- Skilled Nursing Rehab	\$375 per diem
Level 111	- Sub-Acute Rehab	\$475 per diem
Level 1V	- Sub-Acute respiratory	\$550 per diem

**Government Programs (FHPHMO, Medicaid, CHP)**

**Rate**

Level 1	- Basic Skilled Nursing	\$260 per diem
Level 11	- Skilled Nursing Rehab	\$350 per diem
Level 111	- Sub-Acute Rehab	\$450 per diem
Level 1V	- Sub-Acute Respiratory	\$525 per diem

**A motion was made by Mr. Callanan, seconded by Mr. Hunter to approve the above GHI rate increases. Unanimous. (Committee approval only)**

Mrs. Brown thanked the committee for their support throughout the year.

**On a motion made by Mr. Hunter, seconded by Ms. Yepsen the meeting was adjourned.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Chris Sansom