

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE MINUTES

JUNE 6, 2007 – 3:30 P.M.

Present: Chairman Sausville; Supervisors Callanan, Daly, Hunter, Janik, and Yepsen; Spencer Hellwig, Mgmt. Analyst; Janet Glenn, Terry Stortz, Public Health; Dale Angstadt, Mental Health; Diane Brown, Maplewood Manor; Michael Smith, Northeast Regional Director for the Foundation for Autism Information and Research, Inc.; Press.

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

On a motion made by Ms. Daly, seconded by Mr. Callanan the minutes of the May 2, 2007 meeting were approved unanimously.

Mr. Sausville said various health insurance providers provide various benefits depending on the level of care. Every time they change it comes to the Public Health Committee for a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors. It was thought that there might be a more expeditious way.

Mr. Hellwig said there is a resolution in place that is used for Public Health Nursing that deals with the insurance companies that are paying for various services that are provided by Public Health Nursing. As a way of streamlining the process, a number of years ago the Board of Supervisors authorized the Public Health Committee, for committee approval only, to enter into the agreements with either HMO's or the insurance companies and to deal with the fluctuating rates at a committee level.

Mr. Hellwig suggested approving a resolution that would allow the Public Health Committee to approve the agreements that would be signed by the Chairman at the rates that are specified without going through the Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Hellwig said in all cases the reimbursement that is received is in excess of what the Medicaid reimbursement would be for the service.

A motion was made by Mr. Callanan, seconded by Mr. Hunter to approve a resolution authorizing the Public Health Committee to approve and amend client's health insurance contracts. Unanimous.

Mr. Smith presented statistical data with regard to Autism and other related disabilities to the committee for their review. He asked the committee for their help in obtaining more accurate data.

Mr. Angstadt requested a resolution to amend the budget for the Northeast Parent and Child Society to allow payment of 100% state aid funding in the amount of \$4,512.

A motion was made by Mr. Janik, seconded by Mr. Callanan to approve a resolution to amend the budget for the Northeast Parent and Child Society to accept payment of 100% state aid funding in the amount of \$4,512. Unanimous.

Mrs. Glenn requested a resolution to authorize a rate increase for Saratoga Bridges for the respite services that are provided to children in the Early Intervention program effective January 1, 2007 at the OMRDD rates as follows:

	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
Per Hour w/one child	\$14.08	\$17.04
Per Hour w/more than one child	\$21.12	\$25.56

Mrs. Glenn said Public Health has been doing the Early Intervention Program since 1993. Respite services are mandated to provide to Early Intervention families if they need it. Currently, Public Health contracts with Saratoga Bridges provide the respite services, as they have the trained personnel that can deal with the families and oversee the aides. In April of 2007 Saratoga Bridges received notification from OMRDD that the rates that they can be paid would increase retroactive to January 1, 2007. The last time there was a rate increase was in 2004, she said. Currently there are four children being served through the Early Intervention Program. The estimated cost difference between January and April was \$102.56. The yearly money received in the Early Intervention Program is \$19,742.

A motion was made by Ms. Daly, seconded by Mr. Janik to approve a resolution authorizing a rate increase for Saratoga Bridges for respite services provided to children in the Early Intervention Program for the increases as stated above. Unanimous.

Mrs. Glenn said Public Health will be completing a full Community Health Assessment, which will be due in 2008. Back in 2004 a telephone survey was conducted in the northern towns and villages. This year the telephone survey will be conducted in the remaining towns of the county, including Ballston, Clifton Park, Halfmoon, Malta, Milton, Waterford and Wilton, and will begin within the next couple of weeks.

Mrs. Stortz gave a brief update on the Nurse Family Partnership program along with handouts. There are currently four partnerships in New York State. The program is an intensive home visitation program geared to helping first time mothers with low income, and to provide a better outlook for the family.

Ms. Daly said Mr. McDonald's request of the county was to see what Saratoga County can do to better provide a central source of information. To pool together the education and knowledge that we have and be able to have it in a central location, whereby, when families in the county find that they have a child with Autism and other related

disabilities, that the county has a program that could provide them with information as to where they can go for assistance.

Ms. Daly said the county has a lot of the expertise that Assemblyman McDonald was referring to with the services that are currently offered in the county. Ms. Daly suggested forming a subcommittee configured from members of both the Social Programs and Public Health committees. Both committee chairmen will meet to discuss the matter.

On a motion made by Mr. Hunter, seconded by Mr. Callanan the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom