

## Public Health Committee Minutes

March 8, 2007 – 3:30 p.m.

Present: Chairman Sausville; Supervisors Callanan, Connors, Daly, Hunter, Janik, Yepsen, Gutheil and M. Johnson; Spencer Hellwig, Mgmt. Analyst; Diane Brown, Maplewood Manor; Dale Angstadt, Mental Health; Helen Endres, Janet Green, Alan Kempf, Terry Stortz, Public Health; Press.

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

**On a motion made by Mr. Connors, seconded by Mr. Hunter the minutes of the February 7, 2007 minutes were approved unanimously.**

Ms. Endres announced her retirement effective March 31, 2007. It has been an honor and privilege to serve Saratoga County government over the past 34- 1/2 years, she said.

Ms. Endres thanked everyone for supporting her in bringing quality healthcare to County residents. It is this cooperation and support from the Board of Supervisors, Administration and my fellow department heads that has set this county apart from others. She thanked her staff for being so dedicated, talented and experts in their job.

Ms. Endres said, I believe we in Saratoga County are positioned well in meeting the health care challenges ahead. She asked for support to continue this effort for those who will follow after her.

Ms. Endres said Saratoga County Public Health participates in the New York State Childhood Lead Prevention Program, which is funded in part by the New York State Department of Health. We began participation in this program in 1989 serving children between the ages of nine months and six years. This program is designed to increase public awareness and education of lead poisoning and to provide lead-screening tests for the uninsured. Lead poisoning is a potential but preventable problem facing many children.

Providers in New York State are required to test children for lead at age one and two. In Saratoga County, approximately 40% of the primary providers meet that requirement. Laboratory tests of lead screening are done at various labs throughout the county and then sent to the Public Health office where they are entered into a statewide database with the New York State Department of Health. Children that do not have insurance, will receive lead testing at the Public Health office, she said.

Education and follow up is done for those children who have abnormal levels. If levels are 20 and above Public Health partners with the NYS Department of Health to do an environmental follow up for those children. During 2006 the total number of children that were screened in Saratoga County were 3,238.

Currently, the grant cycle runs from 4/1/06 to 3/31/07, with funding of \$35,000. In February of 2007 the State notified Public Health of some additional cost of living adjustment funds in the amount of \$490.

Ms. Endres requested a resolution to accept the additional funding in the amount of \$490 and to amend the 2007 budget to reflect the same. The money will be used to increase educational efforts with primary care providers, by obtaining distributing magnets with testing information and our telephone number to serve as a reminder to test at age one and then again at age two.

**A motion was made by Mr. Callanan, seconded by Mr. Connors to approve a resolution to amend the Agreement with the NYS Department of Health to accept an additional \$490 for the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program and to amend the 2007 County budget. Unanimous.**

Mrs. Brown said there will be an Employee Recognition Program on April 4, 2007 at 1:00 p.m. There will be recognition to people for years of service, perfect attendance, retirees and employees of the month, ending with the announcement of the employee of the year and caregiver of the year. The 2005 caregiver of the year was presented with an award by NYASHA as one of twelve in the entire state to receive the award. All Supervisors are invited to attend.

Mrs. Brown said Maplewood Manor has had a Corporate Compliance Program in effect for a number of years. This was not mandatory, but something that was very important to do. In 2006, it became a law in order to receive State Medicaid funding, and with that comes additional training. Maplewood Manor trains their staff when they are first hired and then annually. Now there is a requirement that the board members go through training as well.

Mrs. Brown presented a video on Corporate Compliance that was formed for all employees at Maplewood Manor.

Mrs. Brown said last year Maplewood Manor had an occupancy rate of 98%. There has been an increase in the complexity of the residents that are being admitted. Indications are that residents are staying longer, she said.

Rehabilitation services are also a priority. More residents are coming to Maplewood Manor for restorative therapy services with the intent to go back into the community. Twenty-seven residents were discharged home in 2006 compared to twenty-five residents in 2005.

Maplewood Manor continues to admit low scoring residents, particularly those with a primary diagnosis of dementia, and they continue to be the most challenging for the facility. The reimbursement for dementia residents continues to be inadequate. Although

the dementia unit only accounts for 14% of the facility beds, over 60% of our residents had a diagnosis of dementia in 2006, she said.

The nursing home Medicaid reimbursement methodology is being revised to exclude the old PRI scoring tool. With this change the facility case mix for November 2006 will be used for the next four years. As a result, admitting, nursing and therapy staff have worked diligently to increase the case mix. The November 2006 case mix was the highest it has been in over two years.

A handout was distributed to all committee members outlining accomplishments at Maplewood Manor for 2006.

Mr. Connors asked what impact the proposed healthcare cuts would have on Maplewood Manor?

Mrs. Brown said, it is going to be devastating. The change in the reimbursement tool will stay, but there are proposals of cuts in other ways that will probably mean a cutoff of approximately \$1 million to Maplewood Manor. Currently the reimbursement for Medicaid to Maplewood Manor is \$138/day.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Chris Sansom