

## PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE MINUTES

NOVEMBER 7, 2007 – 3:30 P.M.

Present: Chairman Sausville; Supervisors Callanan, Daly, Hunter and Yepsen; Spencer Hellwig, Mgmt. Analyst; Diane Brown, Sandi Fischer, Maplewood Manor; Janet Glenn, Terry Stortz, Alan Kempf, Public Health; Hugh Burke, County Attorney; Dale Angstadt, Hans Lehr, Mental Health.

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

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

The following is a draft proposal of a mission statement with regard to the Autism Council of Saratoga County submitted by Ms. Daly.

The Autism Council of Saratoga County serves as a collaborative resource center designed to promote the development of services and resources for individuals with PDD or autism throughout their lifetime. The Autism Council of Saratoga County will strive to provide knowledge and understanding of individuals with Autism and related disabilities and serve as a critical resource to help families find trained professionals and service providers in their community. The Saratoga council will also advocate with state and federal governments on behalf of individuals with autism and to promote public relations.

Mr. Sausville asked for input with regard to the mission statement and if it is acceptable to the committee.

Ms. Yepsen said the mission statement reads well and clear about why it exists. We should have a committee to back the mission statement and take action when needed.

Ms. Daly said she was hoping that a skeletal council could be formed before the year's end. We need to be prepared to accept the possibility of some grant money.

**A motion was made by Mr. Callanan, seconded by Ms. Yepsen to accept the draft mission statement and to authorize the Chairman to meet with**

**the Chairman of the Social Services Committee to develop a sub committee to move further on this project. Unanimous.**

Mr. Angstadt requested a resolution to amend the 2007 budget and the current contract with Transitional Services Association, Inc. to access additional 100% State Aid funding that was approved by NYS OMH for programs provided by TSA.

**A motion was made by Mr. Callanan, seconded by Mr. Hunter to approve a resolution to amend the 2007 budget and accept \$3,516 of additional state aid for Transitional Services Association, Inc. Unanimous.**

Mr. Lehr gave an update on the 2006 Annual Report from the Mental Health Department.

Mrs. Glenn requested committee authorization to write off all bad debts in the amount of \$1,281.55. This is a request that is brought forth to the Public Health Committee annually, she said.

**A motion was made by Mr. Callanan, seconded by Ms. Daly to approve the write off of bad debts to the Public Health Department in the amount of \$1,281.55. Unanimous.**

Mrs. Glenn said all 2,800 doses of flu vaccine have been received and Public Health is in the process of conducting scheduled clinics with 28 scheduled in all and 16 having been done already. To date, there have only been sporadic cases of the flu reported in New York State.

Mrs. Brown said in April the Board of Supervisors approved a resolution to accept money for the Tuition Assistance and Scholarship Program for the time period of July 1, 2005 to December 31, 2006. In September a letter was received from the Department of Health stating that the grant had been extended for an additional six months, qualifying for an additional \$11,447.

Mrs. Brown requested approval to use these monies to support the Tuition and Scholarship Assistance money, as well as, offset longevity increases for the CNA's for the time period January 1, 2007 through June 1, 2007.

**A motion was made by Mr. Callanan, seconded by Mr. Hunter to amend resolution 75-07 and authorize acceptance of additional grant money in the amount of \$11,447. Unanimous.**

Mrs. Brown said GHI is an insurance company that contacted Public Health interested in developing a reimbursement contract with them. They have three types of reimbursement: PPO, HMO and a program similar to the Medicaid Program. Within each of those different programs they actually have four levels, including a basic skilled nursing level, which is for residents that are medically stable but require some skilled nursing observation and intervention. There would be therapy that would be provided for the purpose of restoring and maintaining the person's optimal level of functioning. Level two is skilled nursing rehabilitation, which would provide comprehensive medical, nursing and rehab services to patients on a wide range of rehab needs. The third level is called sub acute rehab, which is more complex with more time that would be required. This would also treat patients that would need specialized wound therapy. The fourth level is a level that would not be provided at Maplewood Manor, which is someone who would have to be on a respirator or ventilator. With all the different levels of care there is different pricing. All of the reimbursement amounts for the above care would be greater than the current private pay amounts as well as the Medicaid rate. The prices for the different levels is as follows: Level one \$300/day - \$260/day; Level Two \$400/day - \$350/day; Level three \$525/day - \$450/day.

**A motion was made by Mr. Daly, seconded by Mr. Callanan to approve the following GHI insurance reimbursement rates: Level one \$300/day - \$260; Level two \$400/day - \$350/day; Level three \$525/day - \$450/day. Unanimous.**

Mrs. Brown said there wasn't a private pay rate increase in 2007; however, for 2008, due to the anticipated increase in costs an increase in the private pay rate is being requested. A few years ago the Public Health Committee made a decision to charge the patient what it costs the county. Mrs. Brown said many other nursing homes charge more than it costs them for the service, hoping to offset some of the Medicaid losses. The cost private pay rate for 2007 and for 2006 was \$225/day plus a 6% cash assessment. The cash assessment is a tax that is charged for any cash that is taken in. With regard to the private pay rate, the cash assessment is passed on to the individual and they are able to claim that amount on their taxes. For 2008 with the budget that is anticipated being approved it is felt that the private pay rate would need to increase to \$235/day, which is a \$10/day increase and with the cash assessment it would increase to \$249.10/day. The average private pay rate in three other county nursing homes was \$278/day for a private room and \$267/day for a semi private room in addition to the cash

assessment. After researching other facilities in Saratoga County it was found that Maplewood Manor is the lowest facility, with the average of the other two facilities being \$280/day for a private room and \$271/day for a semi private room in addition to a cash assessment.

**A motion was made by Mr. Callanan, seconded by Ms. Daly to approve a private pay rate increase from \$225/day plus cash assessment to \$235/day plus cash assessment for a total of \$249.10/day. Unanimous.**

Mrs. Brown said over the past couple of years Maplewood Manor has been entering into transfer agreements with other hospitals and nursing homes in the event that either facility would need to evacuate. Albany County Nursing home has contacted Maplewood Manor requesting a transfer agreement. The more places that you have an agreement with and the further away the better off you are, she said. Mrs. Brown said they would only accept the number of residents that they have space to accommodate. The state will need to approve the number, which would probably be between 10 and 20 people. There are other agreements with Saratoga and Glens Falls Hospitals, Mount Loretto Nursing Home, Glendale Nursing Home, Wells Nursing Home, Wesley Nursing Home, Home of the Good Shepherd and Prestwick Chase.

**A motion was made by Mr. Callanan, seconded by Ms. Yepsen to approve a transfer agreement with the Albany County Nursing Home as outlines by the County Attorney and Maplewood Manor. Unanimous.**

Mrs. Brown distributed a copy of the summary of the current status, challenges and opportunities for the County Nursing Facilities in New York State to all committee members for their review.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Chris Sansom