

Public Health Committee Minutes
June 11, 2012 – 4:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Wright; Supervisors Raymond, Kinowski, Southworth, Grattidge, and Yepsen; George Martin, Treasurer; Karen Levison, Public Health; Hans Lehr, Mental Health; Ryan Moore, Mgmt. Analyst; Diane Brown, Sandy Fischer, Maplewood Manor; Carol Lyte, Hans Lehr, Mental Health; Press.

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

On a motion made by Mrs. Southworth, seconded by Mr. Kinowski the minutes of the May 1, 2012 meeting were approved unanimously.

Mrs. Brown said in November when they were looking to adjust the private pay rate it was suggested that we come back in six months and take a look at it to see where we stand. In doing the draft auditors report it was determined that the \$307/day was perfect for last years' costs. This years' budgeted costs have been reviewed to determine whether there should be a change from the actual to a budgeted amount to determine the private pay rate. Looking at the budgeted amount it was determined that the adjusted cost per day would be \$322, which is an increase of 4.89%, including the cash assessment. Mrs. Brown said she did an analysis comparing some of the other facilities in the area. The current rates at two other Saratoga County nursing homes are \$323 and \$355 for semi private room, and \$342 and \$383 for private rooms. Currently, there are 26 people who are private pay at Maplewood Manor.

Mr. Wright asked why there wasn't an increased charge for a private room. Mrs. Brown said most of the private rooms are a little more than half of a semi private room. A lot of the private rooms have been for residents that cannot tolerate a roommate, with most of them Medicaid patients.

Mr. Wright asked how many private rooms were at Maplewood Manor. Mrs. Brown said there are approximately 45 to 50 private rooms.

Mr. Wright suggested that there should be an additional cost for a private room.

Ms. Raymond said she would like to see when there are private pay rooms available that they be made available to the private pay patients.

Mr. Grattidge said there should be a difference in costs between semi private and private rooms.

A motion was made by Mr. Grattidge seconded by Ms. Yepsen to approve a private room rate of \$342/day, plus the cash assessment, and \$322/day for semi private rooms, plus the cash assessment to be effective after August 1, 2012. Unanimous.

Ms. Levison said they have a proposal between Public Health and DSS to abolish three nursing positions from Public Health and move them over to the Department of Social Services. At this time, the nurses that work in the long term program are under contract with DSS to do assessments and reassessments for their programs outside of what their true mission is. She said when they bill Medicaid they are not recouping their costs when doing the assessments. There is a timeline in streamlining where there has to be at least three people in the house at the same time, patient, patient's family, DSS worker and the Public Health Nurse. She said the idea would be to move two vacant positions and one unfunded position from Public Health Nursing to DSS where they would then own three RN level positions that would be teamed up with their case workers to do the assessments and reassessments for the program. Ms. Levison said this would take between 50 and 60 visits out of her office and the vacant positions would not be replaced. Public Health would still be doing the Long Term Care Program, but it would be combined with the Home Care Program.

Ms. Levison said in addition to the two full time vacancies and two part time vacancies she also has one person out on comp for an extended period and another individual out on disability through the end of October. Ms. Levison is requesting a temp contract with Medical Staffing Network. She said this would be a 12 week contract not to exceed \$25,000 for a temp RN at 35 hours per week.

A motion was made by Ms. Raymond, seconded by Mrs. Southworth to approve a 12 week contract with Medical Staffing Network for a Temporary RN position in Public Health at a cost not to exceed \$25,000. Unanimous.

Mr. Wright said a notice has been received by Saratoga Hospital that Mental Health will need to vacate the building by May 31, 2013. This is being handled through Buildings and Grounds and there has been a subcommittee called for next week to begin to look at relocation.

On a motion made by Mr. Kinowski, seconded by Mrs. Southworth the meeting was adjourned unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom