

HEALTH SERVICES COMMITTEE

April 6, 2010

PRESENT: Supervisors Bussie, Joiner, Fizzell, Johnson, Kuznacic

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Sherry Gunderson, David Sudmeier, Craig Knutson, Ginger Katzman, Tom Berner, David Hayes

CALL TO ORDER/APPROVAL OF AGENDA - Chair Bussie called the meeting of the Rock County Health Services Committee to order at 3:00 p.m. in the Rock Haven Classroom. Supervisors Fizzell and Kuznacic moved approval of the agenda. ADOPTED.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - March 2, 2010 - Supervisors Joiner and Johnson moved approval of the minutes of March 2, 2010. ADOPTED.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION, COMMUNICATIONS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS - Citizens in Attendance: Jim Haseman, Volunteer Ombudsman. Supervisor Joiner reminded everyone to get out and vote.

BILLS - Supervisors Fizzell and Kuznacic moved to pay the bills totaling \$13,638.42. Supervisor Joiner asked if the 2009 accounts were closed. Mr. Sudmeier said the 2009 audit will take place in May which usually is the final step before the year's books are closed. The bills were ADOPTED as presented.

BUDGET TRANSFERS - Supervisors Kuznacic and Johnson moved to approve the budget transfer in the amount of \$25,000. The transfer was necessary to pay for the state fines from last year's annual nursing home survey. Supervisor Joiner asked if there was a specific account to pay for such things. Ms. Gunderson said there is an account which holds \$10,000 in reserve for fines, etc.; however, the \$10,000 was used up paying for the federal fines imposed during the survey.

PRE-APPROVED ENCUMBRANCES/ENCUMBRANCES - None

OLD BUSINESS

Human Services - Nursing Home Needs - Ms. Gunderson reviewed her memo to Charmian Klyve and Ms. Klyve's response with the Committee. Human Services will look at other options such as contracting with an agency to manage a facility, like its contract with Tellurian, to meet the needs of Rock County residents that would not be appropriate for nursing home placement.

Updated Board Presentation - Ms. Gunderson distributed a revision of the PowerPoint presentation which includes changes suggested by the Committee last month. County Board members will each receive a pocket folder that will include a copy of the presentation and other materials outlining the history of Rock Haven, Family Care, assisted living, etc. Supervisor Joiner commended Ms. Gunderson on the presentation. Mr. Knutson agreed, adding that Family Care continues to be "the larger unknown" as it remains to be seen how the program will financially impact Rock Haven's operation as well as the demand for beds. Plans are to make the presentation to the County Board on May 13. Chair Bussie felt Ms. Gunderson did a very good job of putting together a diverse package, adding that the folder idea is excellent.

Survey Update - Ms. Gunderson summarized last week's survey complaint visit and talked about the corrections she will be implementing. The facility received two citations, neither of which will result in fines or require a revisit.

Because of retirements in Madison, Rock County has now been temporarily assigned to the Milwaukee Region of the Division of Quality Assurance. The Madison office was familiar with the positive changes Rock Haven has made throughout the years. The two Milwaukee surveyors, though very complimentary of staff's documentation, found the facility to be very institutional and were concerned about the lack of activities for residents on the memory unit.

Fire Stop Project - The project began March 29. Ms. Gunderson noted the two men working on the project have been very mindful of the residents and treat them with respect. The project is expected to last three months. They are making sure a smoke barrier is in place and marking every area that is corrected so the individuals coming in later to check the work will know what has been done.

NEW BUSINESS

WAHSA Updates - Ms. Gunderson was pleased to hear WAHSA's take on the President's health care reform bill -- Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA). Some of the things the bill will do is preserve the 2010 and 2011 payment updates for skilled nursing facilities, extend the Medicare therapy caps exceptions processes through December 31, 2010, reform long-term care services and supports, initiate demonstration projects on culture change and the application of technology in nursing homes, expand Medicaid coverage of home- and community-based services, and work toward a gradual closing of the Medicare Part D prescription drug "doughnut hole."

REPORTS

Census - The current census is 127, the biggest census drop that has occurred for quite some time. Ms. Gunderson said it is taking a little time to bring that back up; however, there were two admissions and a hospital return yesterday and the remaining beds are spoken for.

Activity Report - The Senior Management Team continues to work on survey issues. It is also planning for National Nursing Home Week and Veteran's Day which falls within the same week. Both resident and employee events are planned. Ms Gunderson outlined the educational programming and conferences planned for April. Resident Council meets next week to discuss menu options and the National Nursing Home Week events.

Finance - As Mr. Sudmeier mentioned earlier, the 2009 books are basically closed with the remaining audit scheduled for May. He doesn't anticipate any changes. The accrued liability was able to be reduced by \$50,000 because of retirements and less staff. If the County had stopped operating the nursing home as of December 31, 2009 the cost of paying employees' accrued benefits would come to \$1.2 million. With the census being down so far this year, Ms. Gunderson has been allowing some staff to take voluntary time off (with benefits) to help lower costs. Mr. Sudmeier said, had she not done this, things might be worse.

NEXT MEETING - The next regular meeting of the Health Services Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, May 4, at 3:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT - Supervisors Fizzell and Kuznacic moved to adjourn the meeting. ADOPTED. The meeting adjourned at 3:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Terri Fena

NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE COMMITTEE