

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: **HEALTH SERVICES**

DATE: **May 24, 2006**

Committee Members Present:

Supervisors Barody
 Sheehan
 Haskell
 F. Thomas
 Tessier
 Champagne
 Mason

Others Present:

Representing Health Services Department:
 Pat Auer, Director
 Sharon Schaldone, Assistant Director, Home Care
 Tammie DeLorenzo, Fiscal Manager/Supervisor of
 Clerical Services
Joan Parsons, Commissioner of Administrative &
 Fiscal Services
Joan Sady, Clerk of the Board
Supervisor Geraghty
Supervisor Kenny
Debra L. Schreiber, Legislative Office Specialist

Mr. Barody called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Motion was made by Mr. Haskell, seconded by Mr. Tessier, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the April 24, 2006 meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Patricia Auer, Director of Health Services, who distributed copies of her agenda packet to members of the committee, a copy of which is on file with the minutes.

Relative to the first item on the agenda, Sharon Schaldone, Assistant Director of Health Services, reported from January 2006 to March 2006 they made 654 telemed home visits, which was an approximate 50% decrease prior to the use of the monitors. All referrals were screened for appropriateness and, she said, a majority did not qualify for the monitor because they were presently targeting the CHF (congestive heart failure) and COPD (chronic obstruction pulmonary disease) population. Mrs. Schaldone responded they would continue to increase the training sessions as well as analyze the programs to their best advantage. On page 3 of the quarterly report (a copy of which is attached to the minutes), she noted the percentage reflected patients on their service that required hospitalization.

Referring to the second item on the agenda, Mrs. Auer advised Warren and Washington Counties had been awarded the USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) telemedicine grant; however they had not received the contract. She stated there was another grant opportunity through USDA but was skeptical about applying when they had not received the funds from the first grant.

Mrs. Auer stated her department had not had the opportunity since the last meeting to explore a site that utilized the Point of Care Equipment and, therefore, could not make any recommendations at the present time.

Continuing on with item three of the agenda, Mrs. Auer informed the committee that on May 2,

2006 Dr. Richard Leach presented an informational "Grand Rounds" session for medical care providers at Glens Falls Hospital on Avian Flu and Pandemic Influenza and Pat Belden, their Communicable Disease Program nurse spoke on the issues the local health departments had been asked to address by August of 2006. She stated the session was not well attended compared to other sessions but usually attendance was better when the problem had already occurred.

Mr. Haskell inquired what Warren County intended on doing with the transients that came to the area and Mrs. Auer replied Public Health did not look at tourism the same as everyone else but it did present challenges. A meeting had been scheduled with Shane Ross, Undersheriff, and Amy Bartlett, First Assistant County Attorney, on isolation and quarantine issues, she added.

With regard to item four of the agenda, Fluoridation, Mrs. Auer apprised there were a few dentists at their meeting; however, after analyzing the volume of information, they decided they would not be prepared to proceed for another couple months.

Referring to the Defensive Driving Program, Mrs. Auer reported that she had been advised by Amy Clute, Self Insurance Administrator, they were allowed to train one health educator enabling them to in-service their staff. After discussing this program with Joan Parsons, Commissioner of Administrative & Fiscal Services, she said it would be addressed at the next safety committee meeting. Mrs. Parsons said it had been suggested the County establish a new employee orientation requiring the defensive driving program and eventually include the existing employees. In addition, she noted there was the incentive for employees to receive a reduction on their insurance by attending the program but they were analyzing both options. Once the program was offered, she said every employee felt they were entitled to attend the program.

Continuing on with the next item on the agenda, Fleet Management, Mrs. Auer explained they had a meeting with Frank Morehouse, Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds, and Bruce Belden, and they were receptive to making the program work. She said she understood a partial report had been obtained from the new software but they were awaiting the elimination of the pink cards.

Mrs. Auer stated the 2006 Emergency Response and Preparedness Plan would be ready for the June committee meeting.

Under New Business on the Agenda, Mrs. Auer explained in order to submit payment to the firm that had been awarded the contract to perform their audit, a resolution request was needed to change the name from Edwards, Williams, McManus and Ricciardelli, PC to Whittemore, Downen, Kilburn and Ricciardelli.

Motion was made by Mr. Champagne, seconded by Mr. Mason and carried unanimously approving the request as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the June board meeting. A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.

Mrs. Auer requested to amend the contract with Moses Ludington Hospital to allow for the use of physical therapy and occupational therapy assistants according to the negotiated rates already in place for therapy services.

Motion was made by Mr. Haskell, seconded by Mr. Sheehan and carried unanimously approving the request as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the June board

meeting. A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.

Mrs. Auer requested a resolution authorizing Mary Lamkins, Long Term Home Health Care Program Supervisor, and Maureen Linehan, RN, to travel out of state to attend a two day marketing training seminar for Honeywell Home Med Partners in Brookfield, Wisconsin from June 19-21, 2006.

Motion was made by Mr. Haskell, seconded by Mr. F. Thomas and carried unanimously approving the request as submitted above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the June board meeting. A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.

In discussions with the County Attorney's office, Mrs. Auer indicated a blanket resolution be prepared authorizing the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors to execute any negotiated agreements that increased the rate of insurance payments without having to secure individual resolutions.

Motion was made by Mr. Haskell, seconded by Mr. Tessier and carried unanimously approving the request as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the June board meeting. A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.

Lastly as a bittersweet item to report, Mrs. Auer requested a referral to the Personnel Committee to fill vacant position of Public Health Fiscal Manager held by Tammie DeLorenzo.

Motion was made by Mr. Tessier, seconded by Mr. Haskell to approve the request to Fill Vacant Position of Public Health Fiscal Manager and refer same to the Personnel Committee.

Mrs. DeLorenzo apprised she had been employed by Warren County for ten years and anticipated being around for another 20. She stated it was her desire to do something different, challenging and with a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science, the position of Business Analyst in the Information Technology Department would be a perfect fit. Mrs. DeLorenzo said she appreciated the opportunity and support she had received from Pat Auer and would be a resource to her replacement.

Mr. Champagne replied she brought a lot of experience to Public Health and would be sorely missed. Mrs. Auer explained her department needed access to a full-time knowledgeable person.

Mr. Kenny entered the meeting at 9:50 a.m.

After discussion, the motion to approve the request as outlined above was carried unanimously. A copy of the Notice of Intent to Fill Vacant Position is attached.

Motion was made by Mr. Mason, seconded by Mr. Sheehan and carried unanimously, that executive session be declared pursuant to Section 105 (f) of the Public Officers Law.

Executive Session was declared from 9:52 a.m. to 10:23 a.m.

The committee reconvened.

Pursuant to executive session, Mr. Barody noted no action was taken.

There being no further business before the Committee, on motion by Mr. Haskell and seconded by Mr. F. Thomas, Mr. Barody adjourned the meeting at 10:23 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra L. Schreiber
Legislative Office Specialist