

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: HEALTH SERVICES

DATE: DECEMBER 15, 2006

Committee Members Present:

Supervisors Sheehan
Haskell
F. Thomas
Champagne
Mason

Others Present:

Representing Health Services Department:

Patricia Auer, Director
Joan Sady, Clerk, Board of Supervisors
Supervisor Girard
Supervisor Bentley
Supervisor Sokol

Committee Member Absent:

Supervisor Tessier

Katy Goodman, Secretary to the Clerk

Vacant: Town of Queensbury

Mr. Sheehan called the meeting of the Health Services Committee to order at 9:38 a.m.

Prior to the Committee meeting, Mrs. Auer had provided the Committee members with copies of her Agenda packet for the meeting. A copy of the packet is on file with the minutes.

Mrs. Auer discussed the Pending Item on the Agenda relative to the renewal of the Department's contracts with various agencies for the provision of Home Health Aide and Personal Care Aide services for the Department's patients. (Please see the minutes of the November 27, 2006 Health Services Committee meeting for background information on this matter.)

Mrs. Auer stated in response to the Committee members' request at the previous Committee meeting, she had obtained the information they had requested on the salaries and benefits the agencies provided the aides. She noted the agencies were cooperative in providing the information. A chart of the information was included in the Agenda packet.

Brief general discussion ensued.

Mrs. Auer stated in view of the need for the aide services, she would request approval of the necessary resolutions to authorize contracts with Greater Adirondack Home Aides, Incorporated, North Country Home Services, Visiting Nurse Association of Albany, and ENS Health Care Management, LLC d/b/a Interim Health Care of New York, for the rates presented in the information included in the Agenda packet.

Motion was made by Mr. Champagne, seconded by Mr. F. Thomas and carried unanimously to approve the aforementioned contracts, as presented. The necessary resolutions were authorized for the next board meeting. Copies of resolution request forms are on file with the minutes.

Mrs. Auer stated the Committee members would recall discussion from previous Committee meetings that the Department had recently conducted a Point of Distribution (POD) Clinic for the First Responder Community as part of their preparations for a pandemic flu event, and that the State Department of Health (DOH) had given them 1000 doses of flu vaccine for the Clinic for free distribution. However, she also recalled, that because the response to the Clinic was low there was a lot of the vaccine left. Mrs. Auer advised the DOH did not want the vaccine returned to them, so the Department could distribute it in whatever way they would like to. Mrs. Auer advised they had given some of the vaccine to specialist physicians. She explained they could hold a public clinic to use the vaccine up, but they could not charge for the shots because they had received the vaccine free. Mrs. Auer asked for the Committee members' input on how they should distribute the vaccine. She expressed concern that people who had paid to be vaccinated (at the regular Clinics) would want to be reimbursed and that could not be done.

Motion was made by Mr. Champagne that the vaccine be given to hospitals and doctors. Mrs. Auer asked if the doctors did not want the vaccine and there was still some left over, would they want them to hold some free clinics. Mr. Champagne amended the motion to recommend that Mrs. Auer should use her best judgement about the situation. Mrs. Auer queried if a resolution was needed to authorize her to proceed in this matter. Mr. Sheehan and Joan Sady, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, concurred that a Board of Supervisors' resolution was not needed.

Mr. F. Thomas seconded the motion and it was the consensus of the Committee members that Mrs. Auer should use her best judgement to determine how to proceed relative to the distribution of the free flu vaccine.

There being no further business to come before the committee, on motion by Mr. F. Thomas and seconded by Mr. Mason, Mr. Sheehan adjourned the meeting at 9:48 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Katy Goodman, Secretary to the Clerk