

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: WESTMOUNT HEALTH FACILITY & COUNTRYSIDE ADULT HOME

DATE: APRIL 27, 2007

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:	OTHERS PRESENT:
SUPERVISORS HASKELL	REPRESENTING WESTMOUNT HEALTH FACILITY:
TESSIER	BARBARA CLEMENTS, ADMINISTRATOR
CHAMPAGNE	REPRESENTING COUNTRYSIDE ADULT HOME:
MASON	BRENDA HAYES, DIRECTOR
GERAGHTY	JOANN MCKINSTRY, DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF
SOKOL	ADMINISTRATIVE AND FISCAL SERVICES
COMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT:	JOAN SADY, CLERK OF THE BOARD
SUPERVISOR O'CONNOR	SUPERVISOR CAIMANO
	SUPERVISOR KENNY
	CHARLENE DIRESTA, LEGISLATIVE OFFICE ASSISTANT

Mr. Haskell called the meeting of the Westmount Health Facility & Countryside Adult Home Committee to order at 9:32 a.m.

Motion was made by Mr. Mason, seconded by Mr. Geraghty and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the March 23, 2007 Committee meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Brenda Hayes, Director of Countryside Adult Home, who distributed copies of the agenda to the Committee members; *a copy of the agenda is on file with the minutes.*

Ms. Hayes began the review of the Countryside Adult Home Agenda with Item No. 1 and informed the Committee that the commercial washer and dryer had been sold on E-bay for \$3,000. She added that the washer and dryer had originally been purchased five years ago for approximately \$4,500.

With regard to Item No. 2 on the Agenda, Ms. Hayes apprised that the Countryside Adult Home's truck had been involved in an accident on April 19, 2007. She added that the accident had been the fault of the driver of the other vehicle and would be covered by that driver's Encompass Insurance policy. She further added that the Countryside Adult Home driver had not been seriously injured and had only suffered a few bumps and bruises.

In answer to a question pertaining to the age of the truck, Ms. Hayes stated that it was a 2004 model. Mr. Haskell said that if the truck were to be considered

totalled, a transfer of funds would be necessary between the general fund and the equipment fund, in order to purchase a new truck. He added that the truck was a 4-wheel drive with a plow package that was used to plow in the winter and was used for laundry transport the rest of the year.

Continuing with Item No. 3 on the Agenda, Ms. Hayes stated that the Department of Social Services (DSS) had requested that the Countryside Adult Home not admit any residents until they had been approved for Medicaid benefits, which was a two to four month process.

Mr. Haskell stated that he did not like the idea of denying admission until the approval of Medicaid was completed. Mr. Geraghty asked if this was a new procedure. Mr. Haskell replied that this was the first time that the issue had been brought to the Committee's attention; however, he did not believe that it was a new procedure. He added that Countryside had been taking Medicaid patients without approval for years. He said once the patients were approved for Medicaid benefits, Countryside was reimbursed. Mr. Mason asked if Medicaid coverage would be retroactive to the date of admission and Mr. Haskell affirmed.

Ms. Hayes stated that part of the problem with not admitting the patients prior to Medicaid approval was that the Facility would not receive the retroactive benefits. She added that Countryside had two patients with outstanding bills that had not completed the applications for Medicaid benefits. She said that one of those patients had since gone to a nursing home and the other had passed away. She said that the issue with one of the patients had been that she was a Washington County resident and Washington County did not want to pay for her care within Warren County.

Mr. Tessier entered the meeting at 9:37a.m.

Ms. Hayes advised that there was a patient with an outstanding balance of \$348 that was filing a claim through their private insurance carrier. She added that Kathy Baker, DSS Accountant, had informed her that they did not bill private insurance, only Medicaid or private pay were accepted. She stated that she had asked Ms. Baker if the patient had been billed and was told that he had not been.

Ms. Hayes reported that the Department of Social Services was having Countryside Adult Home fill out the Medicaid forms on site. She added that she had called every public home in New York State and discovered that none of those homes filled out their own Medicaid forms; they were filled out within the DSS. She said that the common practice used was that these homes filled out the

application to the home and sent it to Social Services, who then filled out the Medicaid forms. She continued and noted that Social Services would then contact the home and advise if the patient was eligible for Medicaid. She added that this process took approximately one week as opposed to two to four months.

Mr. Champagne asked Ms. Hayes what rationale the DSS had in implementing the process. Ms. Hayes stated that she was aware that DSS conducted property searches for patients. She said that with the way things were currently done, much time was wasted in communication between the two Departments. Mr. Geraghty said that he was sure that something could be worked out to speed up the process.

Mr. Mason asked if there were current residents that could not afford the Countryside Adult Home services. Ms. Hayes replied that the residents who could not pay due to financial issues eventually would be approved for Medicaid benefits.

Mr. Haskell asked who from the Social Services Department was working at Countryside and Ms. Hayes answered no one was currently working with them from the Social Services Department. Mr. Tessier stated that whatever was needed to facilitate the Medicaid application process would be worked out.

Motion was made by Mr. Mason and seconded by Mr. Sokol to authorize the Countryside Adult Home to admit patients prior to approval of Medicaid, which once approved, would be paid on a retroactive basis.

Discussion ensued.

Mr. Kenny entered the meeting at 9:42 a.m.

Following discussion, Mr. Haskell called the question and the motion was carried unanimously to authorize the Countryside Adult Home to admit patients prior to approval of Medicaid, which once approved, would be paid on a retroactive basis. *The necessary resolution was authorized for the May 18, 2007 Board meeting.*

Privilege of the floor was extended to Barbara Clements, Administrator of Westmount Health Facility, who stated that the first item on the Westmount Health Facility Agenda was a request for a Transfer of Funds in the amount of \$327 from the supplies code to the office equipment code, to reflect the purchase of an industrial shredder and an electric stapler.

Motion was made by Mr. Geraghty, seconded by Mr. Champagne and carried unanimously to approve the request for a Transfer of Funds in the amount of \$327 from the supplies code (EF.83500.5906 410) to the office equipment code (EF.83500.5830 220), and to refer same to the Finance Committee. *A copy of the request for Transfer of Funds is on file with the minutes.*

Ms. Clements expounded Item No. 2 on the Agenda was a request to amend the 2007 County budget to increase estimated revenues and appropriations in the amount of \$324 to reflect the receipt of HCRA (Health Care Reform Act) Recruitment and Retention Grant funds, to be used for advertising to fill the vacant Physical Therapist Assistant position at Westmount. She added that there was a possible candidate who may accept the position, and she noted the salary was lower than the competitive rate; however, the benefits package made up the difference.

Motion was made by Mr. Mason, seconded by Mr. Tessier and carried unanimously to approve the request to amend the 2007 County budget as presented above and to refer same to the Finance Committee. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Ms. Clements next reported on Item No. 3 on the Agenda, staffing levels. She advised that Westmount was still in need of RN's (Registered Nurse) for the 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. and the 3 p.m. to 11 p.m. shifts. She added that the overtime used in the nursing department was due to lack of coverage of these shifts. She stated that one of the LPN's (Licensed Practical Nurse) on the 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. shift was out on medical disability, which was also adding to the overtime. Mr. Geraghty asked Ms. Clements if she tried to get nurses on a per diem basis and she replied affirmatively. Mr. Haskell stated that they had raised the salary for the nursing positions; however, it was still below the competitive rate. Ms. Clements stated that finding nurses for the positions has been an ongoing problem.

Regarding Item No. 4 on the Agenda, Ms. Clements informed the Committee that Dr. Douglas Fiorillo, DPM would be leaving at the end of May. She added that beginning in June, the Podiatrist servicing Westmount Health Facility would be Dr. Russell J. Mongiovi, DPM.

Mr. Caimano asked Ms. Clements how she liked being the Administrator at Westmount so far. Ms. Clements replied that she liked the Facility and was making some minor changes; however, everything was going well. She added that

Nursing Home Week was coming up in the month of May and that there would also be a Memorial Day event coming up.

Mr. Haskell requested an executive session to discuss the employment history of a particular person. Motion was made by Mr. Geraghty, seconded by Mr. Sokol and carried unanimously, that executive session be declared pursuant to Section 105 (f) of the Public Officers Law.

Executive Session was declared from 9:45 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Committee reconvened.

Mr. Haskell advised that no action was necessary subsequent to the executive session.

Mr. Tessier suggested a joint meeting of the Westmount Health Facility & Countryside Adult Home Committee and the Social Services Committee be scheduled.

As there was no further business to come before the Westmount Health Facility & Countryside Adult Home Committee, on motion made by Mr. Champagne and seconded by Mr. Sokol, Mr. Haskell adjourned the meeting at 10:02 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlene DiResta, Legislative Office Specialist