

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: HEALTH SERVICES

DATE: JUNE 24, 2011

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS SOKOL
THOMAS
TAYLOR
MCDEVITT

OTHERS PRESENT:

REPRESENTING WESTMOUNT HEALTH FACILITY:
BARBARA TAGGART, ADMINISTRATOR
BETSY HENKEL, COMPTROLLER
REPRESENTING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH:
PAT AUER, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH/PATIENT SERVICES
SHARON SCHALDONE, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF HOME CARE DIVISION
GINELLE JONES, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION
TAWN DRISCOLL, FISCAL MANAGER
DANIEL G. STEC, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
PAUL DUSEK, COUNTY ATTORNEY/ADMINISTRATOR
JOAN SADY, CLERK OF THE BOARD
KEVIN GERAGHTY, BUDGET OFFICER
SUPERVISOR STRAINER
SUPERVISOR WOOD
DON LEHMAN, *THE POST STAR*
CHARLENE DiRESTA, SR. LEGISLATIVE OFFICE SPECIALIST

COMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT:

SUPERVISOR CHAMPAGNE

Mr. Sokol called the meeting of the Health Services Committee to order at 9:32 a.m.

Motion was made by Mr. McDevitt, seconded by Mr. Taylor and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the previous Committee meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Barbara Taggart, Administrator of Westmount Health Facility, who distributed copies of the agenda to the Committee members; *a copy of the agenda is on file with the minutes.*

Ms. Taggart requested a contract with Glens Falls Hospital to provide rehabilitation and therapy services to the residents of Westmount Health Facility for a term commencing August 1, 2011 and terminating July 31, 2013 at a rate of \$57 per hour for physical therapy, \$57 per hour for occupational therapy and \$67 per hour for speech therapy. She noted the rates had increased by \$5 per hour compared to the current contract which expired July 31, 2011. Mr. Sokol asked if there had been an attempt to negotiate lower rates and Ms. Taggart replied she had tried to negotiate the rates or to extend the length of the contract to three years. Mr. Thomas questioned the length of the current contract and Ms. Taggart responded the term had been for three years. Mr. Sokol inquired if Glens Falls Hospital was the only option and Ms. Taggart responded that the Facility had contracted with the Hospital for several years and she did not release an RFP (Request for Proposal) because this type of contract was covered by the medical exemption. Mr. Taylor questioned the total amount expended per year and Betsy Henkel, Comptroller for Westmount Health Facility replied she had budgeted \$75,000 for physical therapy, \$42,000 for occupational therapy and \$5,200 for speech therapy. Mr. Geraghty expressed his concern with a 10% increase and noted that when the 2% property tax cap was passed it would limit the amount that the County budget could be increased. He added that a 10% increase in one contract would require a reduction elsewhere to make up the difference. Following further discussion on the issue, it was the consensus of the Committee that Ms. Taggart attempt to negotiate further with Glens Falls Hospital and/or explore other options and if necessary submit an out-of-Committee resolution request form for the July 15, 2011 Board meeting.

Ms. Taggart requested to fill the vacant position of Food Service Helper, base salary of \$23,706, Employee No. 11447, due to resignation. She said that the position was not mandated, was a Union position and was not reimbursable; however, she added, the position was necessary to the operation of the Facility.

Motion was made by Mr. Taylor, seconded by Mr. McDevitt and carried unanimously to approve the request to fill the vacant position of Food Service Helper as outlined above and to forward same to the Personnel Committee. *A copy of the Notice of Intent to Fill Vacant Position form is on file with the minutes.*

Ms. Taggart requested a transfer of funds in the amount of \$3,320 from Westmount, Nursing-Nurses' Station-Other Equipment (EF.60200.5803 260) to Westmount, Nursing-Nurses' Station-Furniture/Furnishings Equipment (EF.60200.5802 210) to cover the purchase of four special air mattresses at \$830 each. She explained mattresses would be utilized for residents experiencing pressure related skin issues.

Motion was made by Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mr. McDevitt and carried unanimously to approve the request for a transfer of funds as outlined above and to forward same to the Finance Committee. *A copy of the Request for Transfer of Funds form is on file with the minutes.*

Ms. Taggart requested to charge off bad debt in the amount of \$11,071.40 for Resident No. 10968 due to acceptance of a settlement of \$16,500 received on June 9, 2011 as a result of Resolution No. 276 of 2011. She noted that the County Attorney's Office had recommended the request in order to conclude the matter.

Motion was made by Mr. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Thomas and carried unanimously to charge off bad debt as outlined above. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes and the necessary resolution was authorized for the July 15, 2011 Board meeting.*

Ms. Taggart reported that the Facility currently had one vacant LPN (Licensed Practical Nurse) position and seven vacant CNA (Certified Nursing Assistant) positions. She added there were two LPN's, one CNA and one Dietary employee out on medical leave. She said she continued to advertise for the vacant positions and was in the process of reviewing applications. She mentioned the number of vacant positions had a negative impact on the amount of overtime usage. She added overtime usage was also increased in the summer due to an increase in the number of employees taking personal and vacation days. Brief discussion ensued.

Ms. Taggart pointed out that a report on overtime usage was included in the agenda packet. She commented that the majority of the overtime usage was the result of covering shifts in the Nursing Department. She noted it was a constant challenge to attempt to keep the overtime usage as low as possible.

Ms. Taggart reported that Westmount Health Facility had completed their Annual Disaster Drill on June 23, 2011. She explained the drill included the assistance of five Fire Departments and imitation smoke was utilized in a resident's room in order to train the staff members on rescuing residents from a smoke filled room. She said the Firemen assisted in the training of the staff members and the drill was initiated by having the Firemen and staff members locate and rescue three staff members from the smoke filled area.

Ms. Taggart announced that Westmount Health Facility would host a Family Picnic on July 19, 2011 from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. She noted the price per guest would be \$10 and she distributed copies of the menu to the Committee members; *a copy of same is on file with the minutes*. Ms. Taggart invited the Committee members to attend the Family Picnic.

This concluded the Westmount Health Facility portion of the Committee meeting and the Health Services portion of the meeting commenced at 10:00 a.m.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Pat Auer, Director of Public Health/Patient Services, who distributed copies of the agenda to the Committee members; *a copy of the agenda is on file with the minutes*.

Ms. Auer requested to adopt the 2011-2015 Rabies Plan for Warren County; *a copy of the Rabies Plan is on file with the minutes*. She noted that copies were distributed to the Animal Control Officers of the individual towns and local Veterinarians.

Motion was made by Mr. McDevitt, seconded by Mr. Thomas and carried unanimously to adopt the 2011-2015 Rabies Plan for Warren County as outlined above. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes and the necessary resolution was authorized for the July 15, 2011 Board meeting*.

Ms. Auer requested approval for Pat Belden, Public Health Nurse, to enroll in a job-related course through SUNY (State University of New York) Albany School of Public Health to complete an internship with the Warren County Health Services Department in an amount not to exceed \$150 (\$75 reimbursement).

Motion was made by Mr. Taylor, seconded by Mr. McDevitt and carried unanimously to approve the request to enroll in a job-related course as outlined above and to forward same to the Personnel Committee. *A copy of the Application for Approval to Enroll in Job-Related Courses by Employee form is on file with the minutes*.

Ms. Auer requested authorization for a contractual agreement with Fletcher Allen Health Care, Inc. to allow Warren County Health Services personnel access to certain specified Fletcher Allen Information Systems to obtain specific patient data for a term commencing July 18, 2011 and terminating upon 30 days written notice by either party. She noted there were no costs associated with this contractual agreement.

Motion was made by Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Taylor and carried unanimously to authorize a contract with Fletcher Allen Health Care, Inc. as outlined above. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes and the necessary resolution was authorized for the July 15, 2011 Board meeting*.

Ms. Auer requested to amend the 2011 County budget to increase estimated revenues and appropriations to reflect the receipt of COLA (Cost of Living Adjustments) funds for various programs, as follows:

- ▶ in the amount of \$38,932 for the WIC (Women, Infants and Children) Program;
- ▶ in the amount of \$1,484 for the Children with Special Needs Grant Program;
- ▶ in the amount of \$2,656 for the Disease Program through the IAP (Immunization Action Plan) Grant; and
- ▶ in the amount of \$1,126 for the Disease Program through the Rabies Grant.

Motion was made by Mr. McDevitt, seconded by Mr. Thomas and carried unanimously to approve the request to amend the 2011 County budget as outlined above and to forward same to the Finance Committee. *Copies of the resolution request forms are on file with the minutes.*

Ms. Auer noted there were no pending items this month and she pointed out that a report on monthly Emergency Preparedness activities was included in the agenda packet. She reported that the Department had recently undergone their three year survey from the New York State Department of Health. She said seven State officials had visited and she was pleased to announce that no deficiencies had been found.

Ms. Auer distributed copies of the 2010 Warren County Health Services Annual Report; *a copy of the Annual Report is on file with the minutes.* She requested the Committee members to review the report at their convenience and she would present a resolution request at the next Committee meeting in order to accept the report.

Tawn Driscoll, Fiscal Manager for the Health Services Department, said a Report on Revenues and Appropriations for 2011 as of June 20, 2011 was included in the agenda packet. She noted the COLA funds previously mentioned by Ms. Auer had been accrued and an additional \$32,333 had been accrued for the month of April from the WIC Grant. She commented that they were currently working on finalizing the May billing for the Certified Home Health Agency, the Maternal Child Health Program and the Long Term Care Program. Pertaining to the salaries comparison, Ms. Driscoll noted the year to date 2011 salaries reflected a decrease of \$33,854.56 compared to the year to date 2010 salaries.

Mr. McDevitt apprised there had been many comments made by politicians concerning Preschool Programs and the general consensus was that the Program was important. He asked if the Preschool Program was a financial issue for Warren County. Ms. Auer responded that the Preschool Program was a major financial issue for Warren County as it was an unfunded mandate. A brief discussion ensued.

As there was no further business to come before the Health Services Committee, on motion made by Mr. Taylor and seconded by Mr. McDevitt, Mr. Sokol adjourned the meeting at 10:13 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Charlene DiResta, Sr. Legislative Office Specialist