

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: HEALTH SERVICES

DATE: APRIL 26, 2012

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS SOKOL
THOMAS
FRASIER
TAYLOR
MCDEVITT

OTHERS PRESENT:

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
TAMMIE DELORENZO, CLINICAL & FISCAL INFORMATICS COORDINATOR
TAWN DRISCOLL, FISCAL MANAGER
DANIEL G. STEC, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
PAUL DUSEK, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
JOAN SADY, CLERK OF THE BOARD
KEVIN GERAGHTY, BUDGET OFFICER
SUPERVISORS KENNY
LOEB
STRAINER
WESTCOTT
WOOD
DON LEHMAN, *THE POST STAR*
CHARLENE DIRESTA, SR. LEGISLATIVE OFFICE SPECIALIST

Mr. Sokol called the meeting of the Health Services Committee to order at 9:31 a.m.

Mr. Sokol commented there were no items on the agenda from Westmount Health Facility; however, he added, the next Committee meeting would be held at Westmount Health Facility where the Committee members would be served breakfast by staff members and a tour of the Facility would follow the meeting.

Motion was made by Mrs. Frasier, 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 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.*

Commencing the agenda review, Ms. Auer requested to extend the current agreement with Kinney Management Services, LLC, to continue the license to utilize KChecks software and website for a term commencing September 1, 2012 and terminating August 31, 2013 for an amount not to exceed \$650.00, and to authorize automatic annual renewals as long as there was no increase in the contract cost. She noted this contract allowed the Department to perform checks on the vendors as required by the Corporate Compliance Policy.

Motion was made by Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mrs. Frasier and carried unanimously to authorize the extension of the agreement with Kinney Management Services, LLC as outlined above. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes and the necessary resolution was authorized for the May 18, 2012 Board meeting.*

Ms. Auer requested to amend the current contract with Fidelis Care New York to allow for the replacement of Schedule 5.2 with Schedule 5.2B which delineated the Ancillary Services

Reimbursement Rates to include the specific Personal Care Aide Service rates. She noted that all other aspects of the contract would remain unchanged.

Motion was made by Mr. McDevitt, seconded by Mr. Thomas and carried unanimously to amend the current contract with Fidelis Care New York as outlined above. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes and the necessary resolution was authorized for the May 18, 2012 Board meeting.*

Ms. Auer requested to amend the current contract with Blue Shield of Northeastern New York to authorize piloting a Care Transitions Intervention Program for select patients with various chronic diseases. She said the schedule of reimbursement for the services had been negotiated and would meet the agency costs. She noted that the other terms of the agreement with Blue Shield of Northeastern New York would remain unchanged. She explained this was part of a National movement designed to reduce hospitalizations for certain high risk patients. Sharon Schaldone, Assistant Director of Home Care Division, further explained the Program was intended for high risk congestive heart failure and pneumonia patients in order to reduce the number of 30 day re-admissions. Mr. McDevitt asked if the Program would provide a source of revenue and Ms. Schaldone replied affirmatively.

Following a brief discussion, motion was made by Mr. McDevitt, seconded by Mrs. Frasier and carried unanimously to amend the current contract with Blue Shield of Northeastern New York as outlined above. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes and the necessary resolution was authorized for the May 18, 2012 Board meeting.*

Ms. Auer requested a contractual agreement with Humana Choice Care Network to allow for reimbursement of nursing and other health related services, and authorizing her to negotiate and receive updated rates without returning for Committee approval. Ms. Auer noted they did not have a lot of patients currently who utilized this insurance, but this agreement would allow them to negotiate a payment rate.

Motion was made by Mr. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Thomas and carried unanimously to approve the request as outlined above. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes and the necessary resolution was authorized for the May 18, 2012 Board meeting.*

Pertaining to additional applications for Certificates of Need (CON) for Certified Home Health Agencies (CHHA's), Ms. Auer said the plan was to meet with anyone who contacted the Department to determine their plans for establishing a CHHA. She advised it was vital to ensure the New York State Department of Health (NYS DOH) provided guidelines and procedures for new CHHA's in order to ensure the future of the Warren County CHHA. Paul Dusek, County Administrator, explained that Warren County had a "monopoly" with the CHHA, as there were no other home agencies providing the same service in the area. The benefit of having the only CHHA, he continued, was that they were able to operate and provide services in remote areas of the County. He said it was important to preserve that status because if other CHHA's were established, they would be able to "cherry pick" their clientele and the Warren County CHHA would be unable to continue operating in the same manner. He advised an official letter should be drafted to the NYS DOH requesting the establishment of guidelines and procedures regarding additional CHHA's in Warren County. He said the NYS DOH regulations presupposed that one home health care agency in a County was insufficient and that at least two other CHHA's were needed for competition purposes. He stated it was inevitable that applications would be submitted and approved; however, he added, Warren County should take a position as to their recommendations for the approval process. Mr. Dusek explained that new

CHHA's could "cherry pick" their clients in the more populated areas, such as Queensbury and Glens Falls, and neglect the more remote areas of the County. This would be competitively unfair to the Warren County CHHA, he continued, who would continue to service the more remote areas of the County. He said the County should request reviews be conducted by the NYS DOH to ensure the "playing field" for CHHA's remained fair and that the entire population was served.

Motion was made by Mr. McDevitt and seconded by Mr. Thomas to authorize the County Administrator to send a letter to the New York State Department of Health, requesting the establishment of guidelines and procedures regarding the establishment of new CHHA's in Warren County to ensure fair business practices and that the entire population of the County was served equally.

Ms. Auer suggested the Committee plan to discuss this topic monthly to stay informed about any new applications. Mr. Sokol commented the Warren County CHHA was a sustainable source of revenue and provided an unsurpassed level of care to its patients. Mr. Loeb suggested requesting the NYS DOH require any new CHHA's to address the entire population and Ms. Auer replied that was the intent; however, she added, a provision by the NYS DOH would be required.

Following further discussion on the matter, Mr. Sokol called the question and the motion was carried unanimously to authorize the County Administrator to send a letter to the New York State Department of Health, requesting the establishment of guidelines and procedures regarding the establishment of new CHHA's in Warren County to ensure fair business practices and that the entire population of the County was served equally. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes and the necessary resolution was authorized for the May 18, 2012 Board meeting.*

Ms. Auer noted a Monthly Report on Emergency Response and Preparedness Activities was included in the agenda packet. She commented that an audit on the expenditure of Emergency Response and Preparedness Grant funding would be completed that afternoon and other Counties had indicated their audits had gone smoothly.

Pertaining to the Report of Revenues and Expenditures for 2012, Tawn Driscoll, Fiscal Manager, stated the report reflected year-to-date revenues of approximately \$1 million. She reported year-to-date salaries reflected a decrease of \$28,055.76 compared to the same time period in 2011. She noted the 2011 budget was currently being audited and the total was under the amount that had been budgeted. She commented that \$1.9 million of the net loss for 2011 was attributed to mandated programs. Mr. McDevitt questioned the budget line for Equipment and noted the majority of the amount budgeted had already been expended and Ms. Driscoll replied that 90% of the amount budgeted for equipment had been for the purchase of vehicles which were purchased in March of 2012.

Ms. Auer stated the Report of Free and Reduced Care for January through March 2012 was included in the agenda packet. She reminded the Committee members that due to the fact that they were part of a Government Agency, a certain percentage of free and reduced care was required. She noted the Department had provided approximately \$83,000 in free and reduced care in 2011.

Ms. Auer pointed out a report on the Warren County Public Health Rabies Program for January through March 2012 was included in the agenda packet. She said it was anticipated that ticks would be a larger issue in 2012 than in previous years. Mr. McDevitt noted the report listed two cats and three dogs which were not vaccinated in the City of Glens Falls and he asked if members of the public usually vaccinated their cats. Ms. Auer replied that the public was given the opportunity to

vaccinate cats and dogs at the Rabies Clinics. Ginelle Jones, Assistant Director of Public Health Division, interjected that cats and dogs over the age of four months should be vaccinated for rabies by Public Health Law. She admitted many people did not vaccinate their indoor cats but possible bat exposure in households was still a threat to rabies exposure. She added if an indoor cat killed a bat in the home, the owner would be required to euthanize their cat or to at least quarantine the animal for six months. Brief discussion ensued.

Mr. Thomas asked if any of the anticipated new CHHA's would also be required to perform free and reduced care and Ms. Schaldone responded affirmatively and added all CHHA's were required to provide 3% of their revenue in free or reduced care.

As there was no further business to come before the Health Services Committee, on motion made by Mr. McDevitt and seconded by Mr. Thomas, Mr. Sokol adjourned the meeting at 9:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Charlene DiResta, Sr. Legislative Office Specialist