

WILL COUNTY BOARD
PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY
COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

June 14, 2011

11 a.m.

Sunny Hill Nursing Home

421 Doris Avenue

Joliet, IL 60432

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Gould called the meeting to order at 11 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Present were Members: Babich, Hart, Stewart, Zigrossi and Gould.

Absent were Members: Argoudelis and McPhillips.

Also Present: Will County Board Deputy Chief of Staff Melissa Johannsen.

Present from State's Attorney's Office: ASA M. Tatroe.

PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE

Ms. Hart led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Ms. Zigrossi, second by Ms. Hart, to approve the minutes from

May 12, 2011. All in favor.

MOTION CARRIES.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Request to Appropriate Reality Illinois Tobacco Grant Program Funds in Health

Department's Budget

Mr. Cicero stated the \$20,000 grant was from the Illinois Department of Public Health. A small portion of the money would be appropriated and the remained would be used to offset existing personnel costs. There would be \$5,447 appropriated in the budget for fiscal year 2011.

A motion was made by Mr. Babich, second by Ms. Zigrossi, to place a resolution on the County Board agenda to appropriate grant funds in the Health Department budget for the Reality Illinois Tobacco Program. All in favor.

MOTION CARRIES.

Request for Transfer of Funds in Health Department's Budget for Contracted Temporary Services for CMA/RNs

Mr. Cicero stated the money would cover the cost of some temporary certified medical assistants and registered nurses at the Community Health Center. When there were open positions and it was difficult to recruit new employees, temporary workers provided the medical services. Money must be moved from salaries to contractual services to cover those costs.

A motion was made by Mr. Babich, second by Ms. Zigrossi, to place a resolution on the County Board agenda to transfer appropriations within the Health Department budget to fund certified medical assistants and registered nurses. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

Request for Transfer of Funds in Health Department's Budget for Contractual Physicians/Medical Services

Mr. Cicero stated the Health Department had openings for gynecologists and obstetricians but had difficulty recruiting doctors. Local physicians were hired on a contractual basis to be on call and work in the delivery room. Although the three positions now have been filled, money must be transferred from the salary line items to medical services to cover the contractual costs.

Mr. Stewart arrived at this juncture.

Mr. Gould asked for the identification of the line item being used to pay the salaries of the newly hired doctors.

Mr. Cicero answered there is adequate appropriation in the salary line item to pay for their salaries.

Ms. Zigrossi asked for the number of patients examined on average by each doctor.

Mr. Cicero answered about 25 per day. On some days, the number was higher.

Ms. Zigrossi asked for the number of patients examined yearly by each doctor.

Mr. Cicero replied the Health Department had 47,000 to 50,000 total visit in all disciplines and 18,000 to 20,000 patients in 2010.

Ms. Zigrossi asked if the doctors paid for their own malpractice insurance.

Mr. Cicero answered it was covered by the federal government's Federal Tort Claims Act. Some doctors have "tail" insurance if they have been working in another practice to cover any prior activity that might become part of litigation. In general, neither the Health Department nor its doctors buy malpractice insurance.

Mr. Babich asked how many people would be waiting to enter the Health Department on Monday mornings.

Mr. Cicero answered the Health Department's schedule is based on appointments. Years ago, only walk-ins were accepted. Because quite a few people miss their appointments, there is some double and triple booking.

Mr. Babich asked for the number of no-shows.

Mr. Cicero replied it was 20-25 percent of the total number of appointments.

Ms. Zigrossi asked if walk-ins were accepted.

Mr. Cicero answered yes, in some cases. A triage system now is used so the most urgent cases receive care first.

Mr. Stewart asked if the Health Department used many interpreters.

Mr. Cicero replied there are quite a few clerks who served as interpreters and many members of the staff are bilingual.

A motion was made by Mr. Babich, second by Mr. Stewart, to place a resolution on the County Board agenda to transfer appropriations within the Health Department budget to fund contractual physicians. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

Mr. Gould asked about the status of the Tobacco Licensing Program.

Mr. Cicero answered the Health Department's staff has conducted the training and education component. Retailers who apply for new licenses at the County Executive's office come to the Health Department to earn their certificates.

Mr. Gould asked how many people applied for licenses.

Mr. Rafac answered he would try to determine the number.

Mr. Stewart asked if the Health Department provided enforcement.

Mr. Cicero replied the Health Department handled complaints regarding people smoking in smoke-free areas.

Sunny Hill Replacement Hires

A motion was made by Mr. Babich, second by Ms. Zigrossi, to place the replacement hires for Sunny Hill Nursing Home on the County Board agenda. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

Authorize State's Attorney's Office to Review Executive Session Minutes and Concur with their Recommendation

A motion was made by Mr. Babich, second by Ms. Zigrossi, to authorize the State's Attorney to review the Executive Session minutes. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

Tour of Sunny Hill

Ms. Sorbero explained the members of the committee would tour a unit that had been renovated and one that had not been renovated. Three of the six units have been renovated at this time and the work is ongoing on the fourth unit. The work is ahead of schedule and should be finished in September

or early October. The Public Building Commission recently approved the purchase of beds and furniture for the unit. When the unit is renovated, 42 residents will live there instead of 46. A dining area has been added for people who need more assistance and supervision during meal times. The renovations are being done following the order of original construction of the units; the sixth unit was the last one constructed so it will be the last one to be renovated. During the project each unit is gutted until only the studs remain, and everything is replaced including the electrical wiring and the plumbing. The cost of doing each unit is about \$3.4 million. A waiting list has been created for people who want to move into one of the new units. The renovations better reflect Sunny Hill's philosophy: resident-centered care. The staff is trying to make it feel more like a home for the people who live here. Although staff thought the construction on Interstate 80 might affect the census numbers it hasn't; there are 221 people here today. When families chose a nursing home, one of the factors can be proximity and travel time. Many people like to make daily visits to their loved ones. Because of the renovations, there was a capital rate increase. So the money invested in the building is coming back to the county's coffers.

Ms. Zigrossi asked for an explanation of the family's obligation if a resident is on Medicare.

Ms. Sorbero indicated that it varied.

Ms. Zigrossi asked for the average cost of a day's stay at Sunny Hill.

Mr. Rafac stated it was about \$184 a day for residents under the private pay option.

Ms. Zigrossi asked about the family's cost for residents on Medicaid.

Ms. Sorbero answered there was no responsibility for the family.

Mr. Rafac stated Medicare and Medicaid actually paid more for each resident, about \$224 per day.

Ms. Sorbero noted there were about 50 residents who paid privately. Most of those people are in the process of spending down their assets so they can use Medicaid.

Mr. Rafac commented Will County's other nursing homes all have add-ons, meaning those facilities charge additional fees for services such as dispensing medication. These fees can add as much as \$50 to \$100 a day to the cost of those facilities.

Mr. Gould asked if the private pay rate was adequate.

Mr. Rafac commented it might be a good idea to do a study to determine the types of add-ons offered by other nursing homes and their costs. Then the county truly could compare the costs of other nursing homes vs. Sunny Hill.

Ms. Sorbero commented staff every two years considered the private pay fee. Perhaps it was time to do a study and present the findings to the committee along with staff's recommendation.

Mr. Rafac indicated in the next few months staff might ask for a portion of the capital rate increase to be set aside in a capital improvements fund to use for major expenses at Sunny Hill. The

nursing home could use a state-of-the-art time keeping system for employees such as Kronos, for example. The existing time keeping system is outdated and in poor repair. Kronos would cost less than \$80,000 for the nursing home. The money also could be used for new kitchen equipment and soft goods that aren't purchased by the Public Building Commission.

Mr. Gould asked for an explanation of Sunny Hill's history regarding the state of the actual buildings.

Mr. Miglorini replied the renovations began in 2001 on Third Avenue, one of the building's units, and the goal was to spruce up the area. After the work began, other problems were discovered. Former County Executive Joe Mikan and the Public Building Commission realized the lease never had been released to the county. Workers first tackled Third Avenue, then First Avenue, Second Avenue and the lobby. Although the finishes were adequate for the nursing home, the majority of Sunny Hill's residents use wheel chairs, so scratches and bumps are inevitable. Once the units are completed, the dining room, the kitchen and the common areas will be renovated. Staff works with the contractors as they cope with the buildings' mechanical systems. Funds set aside for energy savings were used to install two new boilers without water tanks to handle laundry, baths, showers and the kitchen's needs. It's the only system of its kind in the United States.

Other New Business

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Ms. Zigrossi, second by Mr. Stewart, to adjourn the meeting at 12:33 p.m.

All in favor.

MOTION CARRIES.