

HEALTH COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 27, 2010

HEALTH COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Shay, Hall, Suprenant, Campbell, Idleman, Pitts

HEALTH COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Sady

SUPERVISORS: Rymph, LaPointe, Henke, Lindsay

Debra Prehoda, Clerk

Kevin Hayes, County Administrator

Doug Cosey, Administrator PV

Tom Quinlan, Comptroller PV

Roger Wickes, County Attorney

Patty Hunt, Director Public Health

Ann Reynolds, Tina McDougall, PH

Harrison Steves, Supt. Buildings

AGENDA AS PRESENTED IN COMMITTEE NOTICE:

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Approval of Minutes – November 25, 2009
- 3) Department Reports/Requests:
 - A. Pleasant Valley
 - a. Woodchip Fuel Presentation – Dave Dungate, ACT Bioenergy
 - b. Discuss Director of Nursing Services Position
 - c. Nursing Home Inspection Results
 - d. Adult Home Inspection Results
 - e. Permission to Attend Conference – Albany
 - f. Fiscal Report
 - g. Miscellaneous
 - B. Public Health
 - a. Agency Fiscal Report
 - b. H1N1 Update
 - c. Potential Impact of Governor's Proposed Budget
 - d. DHO Request – Children w/Special Health Care Needs
 - e. Project MATCH Update
 - f. 2009 Worksite Wellness Report
 - g. Miscellaneous
- 4) Other Business
- 5) Adjournment

Chairman Shay called the meeting to order at 1:00 P.M.

A motion to approve the minutes of the November 25, 2009 meeting was moved by Mr. Suprenant, seconded by Mrs. G. Hall and adopted.

PLEASANT VALLEY: Doug Cosey, Administrator, addressed the following items with the committee:

- Woodchip Fuel Presentation – Dave Dungate, ACT Bioenergy – Toward the end of 2008, the County looked into an alternative heating source for Pleasant Valley but was set aside due to budgetary concerns. That report did reference the ACT Bioenergy boiler being presented today. Doug indicated that ACT Bioenergy has advised him of the availability of NYSERTA grants that would substantially reduce the cost of the project and the payback period. Mr. Dungate presented a power point presentation on his product. “Bioenergy heating systems create energy without relying on non-renewable fuel sources such as gas and oil. Instead bioenergy systems use renewable biomass, such as plant material, as their fuel source. ACT’s Bioenergy Boiler uses a proprietary gasification technology to efficiently transform wood and other agricultural residuals into clean, green heat.” He stated their system has a very compact design. The boiler system’s automation for cleaning is very automated requiring very little maintenance regarding ash collection. The system is designed to be user friendly. The boiler has two configurations, one for wood chips and

one for pellets. Mr. Henke inquired about burning grass pellets. Mr. Dungate stated his system is not designed to burn grass pellets. He stated you would want to run the boiler at full capacity as much as possible. He suggests under sizing the boiler to assist with the peak times in the winter and sufficient for the normal levels. The boiler could handle either chips or pellets. Chips are cheaper than pellets; the cost for chips is about \$50 per ton and pellets are \$190 per ton. Chips are not as standardized and have a higher moisture content. Pellets would be stored in a grain silo and a square storage bunker with an auger for the chips. The boiler would come ready to install outside the building. \$400,000 installation cost. Using chips, he estimates a five-year payback and a seven-year payback on a pellet system and less if grant funding is received. He would be willing to write and submit a grant if the Board made a commitment to move forward with the purchase of a system. The deadline for the grant application is February 17th. The grant would probably require a 20% to 25% match. Harrison Steves, Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds, questioned running this system during the summer months basically for hot water was inefficient. Mr. Dungate stated the system is designed basically for space heating. Mrs. G. Hall stated she is not ready to make a 20% commitment for this project at this time. Kevin Hayes, County Administrator, questioned if there would be another round of grants. Mr. Dungate was unsure of another round of this stimulus grant. No committee action taken.

- Discuss Director of Nursing Services Position – Nancy West has joined the staff of Pleasant Valley as the Director of Nursing Services.
- Nursing Home Inspection Results – The facility was surveyed back in December and Doug distributed a summary of the eight deficiencies, attached. A plan of correction has been completed and accepted by the Department of Health. The State will re-survey in March.
- Adult Home Inspection Results – He does not have the written report yet but there will be some citations, nothing major, based on the verbal exit conference.
- Permission to Attend Conference – County Nursing Facilities Conference in Albany. The only cost would be the use of a County vehicle. A motion to allow Doug to attend conference was moved by Mrs. G. Hall, seconded by Mr. Suprenant and adopted. If he does stay overnight, as he is a Board member, it is at the conference's expense.
- Fiscal Report – Tom Quinlan, Comptroller, distributed and explained the following handouts: Recap of 2009 Medicaid Rates – handout attached, Budget to Actual Revenue and Expenses through November 2009, Estimated Net Gain for 2009, Rate Sheet and 2009 Actual Cash, on file. The Governor's proposed budget eliminates the trend factor and adds an additional 1% cash receipts assessment that is not reimbursable to the facility. The preliminary impact of the Governor's proposed budget to PV is about \$190,000. The committee discussed for the new members the IGT monies. Mr. Quinlan discussed a bad debt that will probably have to be written off. Their bad debt is low compared to other public and private facilities. The bad debt is regarding a deceased patient's account and trying to recoup funds, \$23,000 of the patient's funds were transferred to her children and land was sold under fair market value. The daughter paid but the son did not pay any funds. The total claim was in the amount of \$93,482 and the facility is in receipt of \$70,254. The facility no longer accepts patients prior to determination of Medicaid eligibility. They should refer this matter to the District Attorney's Office for review of possible criminal charges.
- Miscellaneous:
 - Last week, they were informed a male CNA was accused of inappropriately touching a female patient's breast while providing care. This allegedly took place in November but was only informed of this last week. The Department of Health, DOH,

investigated but did not find enough credible evidence that this occurred. DOH did issue a Level D deficiency in the delay in reporting. Everyone in the facility will be reeducated on procedures. The Attorney General's Office is also investigating as well as the investigations conducted by Pleasant Valley and the DOH. The employee has returned to work in a different unit.

- Permission to contract with a staffing agency – Pleasant Valley was given authorization to contract with a staffing agency for assistance with their nursing needs. The firm they engaged has not been able to meet their needs. He would like to engage a different staffing agency. This is a secondary source for staffing. Doug reported current staffing shortages: 2 FT RNs, 2 FT LPNs, and 12 CNAs. A motion to approve secondary staffing agency was moved by Ms. Idleman, seconded by Mr. Suprenant and adopted. A Certified Nursing Aide class is scheduled to start March 1st.
- Sprinkler System – Kevin inquired about the status of moving forward with a sprinkler system. Doug has monies budgeted and is ready to commence. Kevin stated a scope of work and then a plan is needed. All NYS nursing homes must be sprinkler by August 2013. This would be a two-phase project. The goal for this year is get a reliable sufficient water source to the building, piping and fire pumps. Next year the second phase would be the actual installation of the sprinkler system. This requires a CON, certificate of need, application that requires a Board resolution. He has been working with Paul Martin, Engineer.
- Mr. Campbell mentioned the report looking into selling PV and Kevin asked the committee how they want to proceed. The Finance Committee recommended going out for an RFP. Fulton and several other counties are investigating their nursing homes and are in varying stages of the process. Does the committee want to move forward with an RFP for a consultant? Mrs. G. Hall feels the need for the study. The nursing home and certified home health nursing are not mandated services. Mr. Lindsay also mentioned the Adult Home loses money. A draft RFP for a consultant will be presented next month.

HEALTH: Patty Hunt, Director, Public Health addressed the following items with the committee:

- Agency Fiscal Report – Tina McDougall, Fiscal Manager, distributed and discussed the Budget to Actual for 2009, on file. There are still expenses outstanding to be paid for 2009. Their billings are up to date. She updated the committee on the Third Party Liability Project, where they had to go back and bill Medicare for dually eligible patients that Medicaid was originally billed, 269 episodes to be examined but have not received any report on the review. The agency has claimed \$347,000 against their Core grant of \$406,000. Tina is requesting resolutions to transfer remaining grant monies to the 2010 budget. A motion to carry over into 2010, Public Health Preparedness Grant in the amount of \$51,638 was moved Mrs. G. Hall, seconded by Mr. Campbell and adopted. A motion to carry over to 2010, Radon grant in the amount of \$2,495 was moved Mrs. G. Hall, seconded by Mr. Campbell and adopted. A motion to carry over to 2010, Child Passenger Safety Seat grant in the amount of \$8,856.00 was moved by Mrs. G. Hall, seconded by Mr. Campbell and adopted. She is also requesting to recognize in the 2010 budget stimulus funding received for immunizations in the amount of \$20,000. A motion to recognize \$20,000 in stimulus funding in the 2010 budget for immunizations was moved by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mrs. G. Hall and Mr. Suprenant and adopted. A grant meeting will be set up regarding this funding.

- H1N1 Update – The demand for vaccine has decreased. A clinic was held yesterday for seasonal flu and H1N1 flu with approximately 150 vaccines. She reported that currently there does not appear to be a lot of sickness. The seasonal flu is picking up a little bit. She has had some difficulty with the publicity and she is still looking at the best way to get the word out on the clinics.
- Potential Impact of Governor's Proposed Budget – handout attached. These changes are positive for the County.
- Request – Children w/Special Health Care Needs – In 2005 Public Health decided not to continue the program, which is not mandated. These needs were being taken care of through other avenues and were administratively burdensome. Community Maternity Services has been receiving \$18,000 for providing these services, marketing, purchasing items for families. These funds are on a five-year cycle. The State has denied Community Maternity to administer this program. Public Health can take it back, contract with Community Maternity to provide these services or do nothing. Patty stated Community Maternity did a good job. This is the beginning of a new five-year cycle. A motion to not accept to participate in this program was moved by Mr. Suprenant, seconded by Mr. Pitts and Mrs. Idleman and adopted.
- Project MATCH Update – February 17th – New York State will issue a report ranking counties on various health topics, i.e. smoking, mv accidents. The preliminary figures ranked Washington County in the lowest rankings for binge drinking and DWI. This information will be released to the counties on February 8th.
- 2009 Worksite Wellness Report – Year in review report, Jumpstart Your Heart Program handout and Biggest Loser Program handout, on file.
- Miscellaneous – Backfill Requests:
 - Typist Backfill due to Retirement – The switchboard operator is retiring. A motion to forward to the Staffing Review Committee a request to backfill a typist due to retirement was moved by Ms. Idleman, seconded by Mr. Pitts and adopted.
 - Resignation of On Call Nurse – Public Health is required to have 24-hour access for all after hour work and weekends. A motion to forward to the Staffing Review Committee a request to backfill an On Call Nurse due to a resignation was moved by Ms. Idleman, seconded by Mr. Pitts and adopted.
 - Per Diem Nurse Request – The department has five pregnant nurses and also two resignations. Patty is proposing to use two per diem nurses to help fill the gap created by the five pregnant nurses and will not request at this time to backfill the two resignations. A motion to forward to the Staffing Review Committee a request to approve two per diem nurses was moved by Mrs. G. Hall, seconded by Mr. Campbell and adopted.
- Delta Computer System – keeps billing up to date. Patty would like an onsite visit to make sure optimum usage of the system. A Delta representative would be onsite 4 or 5 days at an expense of approximately \$4,000, which is included in her 2010 budget. A motion to approve expenditure for Delta representative onsite visit was moved by Mrs. G. Hall, seconded by Mr. Suprenant and Ms. Idleman and adopted.

Both Doug and Patty invited the Supervisors to visit their facilities and/or arrange to go out on a home health/clinic/hospice visit with the nursing staff.

OTHER BUSINESS: None.

The meeting adjourned at 3:29 P.M.

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