

**COUNTY HOME ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2004**

**Roll Call**

Vice Chair Ken Miller called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. at the County Home with the following Council members present:

Present: Emily Muscatello, Cheryl Scheck, Ken Miller, Skip Sipos, Randy Schmidt, Randy Bing, Tanya Rodgers, Phebe Simpson, and Jo Becks.

Absent: Brian Feron

The following Ex-officio members were present: Commissioner Steve Hambley, Joyce Farnsworth – County Home Administrator, and Lynn Remington – Assistant County Home Administrator. (A sign up sheet is attached as Exhibit A.)

**Approval of Minutes – 1/28/04**

The minutes had been emailed in advance. Ken asked if there were any additions or corrections and there were none. Emily Muscatello moved to approve the minutes. Cheryl Scheck seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All voted AYE and the minutes were approved as presented.

**Committee Reports**

**Finance – Rate Evaluations**

Cheryl Scheck reported that Skip Sipos, Tanya Rodgers, Brian Feron, and she met on February 12<sup>th</sup>. They discussed the following options for the current CH rates:

- 1.) No change in the monthly rate;
- 2.) An increase of \$100 per month for every year since 2002; and
- 3.) Set the additional rate based on the monthly actual cost without considering the capital improvements.

Cheryl said they had several questions they felt needed to be addressed before they could consider a rate change. Those questions were:

- Would the “grandfathered” clients be a part of some sort of rate increase?
- If an individual had his/her income increase, or came into a lump sum of resource money - would he/she be subject to a rate increase?
- Would an increase in the monthly rate have any impact anyway because the majority of the residents that live at the County Home don’t have the income or resources available to pay the current monthly rate?

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- How are the \$25 and \$40 per month personal allowances determined?
- How is the rate structure presented to potential clients?
- Are most of the inquiries over the phone or drop-ins?
- If there are a large number of inquiries – why are these people not seeking admission to the County Home?

Cheryl said they are recommending no change in the monthly rate at this point. They suggested Council look at increasing the number of residents to 55. The Finance Committee can go back and revisit the issue in three to six months. At that point they can see if bringing in additional people brings the cost per resident down. They also suggested starting a positive marketing approach. They should explain all that is included in the County Home's monthly rate because oftentimes it is compared to Assisted Living where there are extra charges for everything.

Ken asked Lynn Remington to answer some of the Finance Committee's questions. Lynn said they give \$40 per month to residents that are allowed to smoke because \$25 was never enough. Smoking has been an ongoing problem at the Home, and there is now no smoking inside the building. Not all of the smokers get \$40 allowance per month and not all residents get an allowance. Some families pay part or all of it. Also, if a resident has extra expenses that they can verify, she will give them the money to cover them. A couple of residents do not use their allowance and put it towards their burial expenses. The allowance has always been \$25 and never changed because everything is basically there for the residents. Although law does not mandate it, Nursing Homes began giving allowances years ago and the County Home followed suit. Upon questioning, Lynn said if a resident had the means to pay the full rate, they would pay it. No one pays the full amount at this time. When a person enters the Home she verifies their checking and savings accounts, assets, and income. The CH Advisory Council felt for consistency they should consider paying all residents the same allowance.

Commissioner Hambley said to Joyce and Lynn that one of the targets this year was to work on their Policies and Procedures. He thinks this is one of the policies they need to identify sooner than later. The two-tier allowance is probably not very equitable and they should be consistent across the board.

Randy Schmidt said the policy for the disbursement of equal amount of allowance could have a part that says if a person does not spend the money, they have the opportunity to choose to put some of it back in to help pay for their being at the Home. This creates dignity for a resident.

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Ken said they will allow the County Home time to work out their Policies and Procedures and then they can bring them back to Council. If there is an issue, the Finance Committee has a review in three to six months and can address it then.

### **Marketing**

Cheryl discussed the need for a marketing campaign. She gave an example. She said Phebe Simpson told her she surveyed some people at Medina General Hospital where she works to see how many were aware of the County Home as an option for discharges. Quite a few people were unaware of the Home, even with all the publicity in 2001, and did not think of it as an option. Cheryl said many area agencies probably do not know about the Home either. She gets a lot of phone calls at her work, for people that do not need Nursing Home placement but require some supervision. They need to make folks aware of where the County Home is, what it is, and understand the quality of the facility. Some marketing suggestions were a visual brochure; a link on the county's web page with a virtual tour; and hosting a breakfast meeting at the Home for agency people such as the Resource Council.

Ken said the Marketing Committee would meet after this meeting to schedule their first meeting. Also, the Friends of the County Home will have a booth at the Medina County Home and Flower Show on March 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, and 14<sup>th</sup>. They will be selling cookbooks and Seven Sister replicas of the Home. They have asked for an updated brochure or simple fact sheet to pass out. They would appreciate any volunteers to help with the booth as well.

### **Admissions – update on progress of policy**

Emily Muscatello said she went through the Admissions Policy and in her opinion it did not need any further changes so she sent it back to the Prosecutor's Office. It is ready to be typed up and be emailed for review at next month's CH Advisory Council meeting.

### **Administrator's Report**

Joyce Farnsworth reported they had no admissions this month so there are currently 51 residents. There have been six inquiries. The new fire system was inspected on 2/18 and is up and running. The cooler floor was completed, and they did a beautiful job. The floor covering in the hallway in the little kitchen will be refinished Friday. A full time RN and the Activities Director are on leave. They hired a LPN for a swing shift. They are contracting with Suburban Medical Labs to come to the Home and do blood draws. Joyce said this would be a great help to the staff plus alleviate a lot of trips to the hospital. Medicaid and Medicare reimbursements will take care of the payment of the service. The Home has applied for a grant for a new van.

### **Other Business**

Everyone was invited to see the new cooler floor after the meeting.

### **Public Input**

No one wished to speak at this time.

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**Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

**The next meeting will be Wednesday, March 31, 2004, 6:30 p.m. at the County Home.**

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Vereb, Secretary