

COUNTY HOME ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31, 2004

Roll Call

Chair Brian Feron 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, Brian Feron, Skip Sipos, Randy Schmidt, Randy Bing, Tanya Rodgers, Phebe Simpson, and Jo Becks.

Absent: None

The following Ex-officio members were present: Commissioner Steve Hambley, John Stricker – County Administrator, and Lynn Remington – Assistant County Home Administrator.

Approval of Minutes – 2/25/04

The minutes had been emailed in advance. Brian asked if there were any additions or corrections and there were none. Brian approved the minutes as presented.

Committee Reports

Finance

Brian Feron said that Cheryl Scheck gave a Finance Committee presentation at the last meeting. He asked Commissioner Hambley if the Commissioners had any questions about the report.

Steve Hambley said they discussed the allowance policy and the differences between the \$40 per month smokers' allowance and the \$25 per month non-smokers' allowance. There is concern that it is discriminatory. He spoke with Chris Jakab, Finance Director, yesterday. Chris indicated there should not be a cash flow problem for the County Home this year because some additional money is coming in that was owed, and there will be some revenue from a court ordered sale of property from a prior resident. The Commissioners decided to leave it up to Council as to how they want to handle the personal allowances to make it equitable – raise everyone up to \$40 or lower all to \$25 to encourage less smoking.

Ken Miller suggested having everyone receive \$40 per month allowance and leave residents the option that unused allowance could help pay for their residency at the County Home.

Skip Sipos pointed out that \$40 per month was the nursing home industry standard so it would make sense to stick with a number that is somewhat industry oriented. If 50 residents went from \$25 to \$40, that would be only be a \$9,000 additional expense on an annual basis.

Upon questioning, Lynn Remington said there were only about five residents that receive \$40 a month. Whatever is not spent is carried over, up to \$150. Then the family usually takes the money and buys what personal items that individual needs. They recommend that the residents do not keep more than \$25 cash in their rooms.

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Emily Muscatello added that it gives the residents dignity when they have money to spend at an outing or at a store. Ken said the residents like to go to garage sales every couple of weeks, too.

Emily Muscatello made a motion for the allowance to be \$40 per month for all residents. Randy Schmidt seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All voted AYE and the motion carried.

John Stricker said he would get the financial report out to Council. The only item that was out of the ordinary was about \$15,000 back income for some contract issues

Admissions

Emily Muscatello said she worked with Carol Shockley, Prosecutor's Office, and they spent a couple of days on the pre-application form. They also went through the Admissions Policy draft that the consultants recommended. One of the changes that the consultants recommended was that they do not use the title "Administrator", but use "Superintendent" instead.

John Stricker said that it is an Ohio Law that as long as the individual has a nursing home license the Commissioners have the ability to designate the title of Administrator, which they have done.

Ken Miller said according to Ohio Revised Code 5155.03, the Commissioners shall appoint a superintendent that they may authorize to use the title "Administrator" who may reside on the premises of the County Home or its buildings.

John suggested they find out what the difference is, and Emily said she has researched it and there is no difference. They can use either one.

Steve Hambley said that "Superintendent" was an historical term that was in place in the early 1900's. The superintendent was actually elected by popular election over the County Home. It was modernized and the term "Administrator" was used.

Emily Muscatello said in Section 2 under "Definitions", they have one of them "Superintendent a.k.a. Administrator". They could do it that way or put "Superintendent/Administrator". The policy is ready to be retyped and brought to the County Home Advisory Council for review and approval.

John Stricker recommended they use both "Superintendent/Administrator" in the "Definitions" and then use one of them. "Administrator" is currently in use, but in the future it could be changed. The group agreed to use "Administrator" throughout the policy.

Steve said that the pre-application form was probably not included for review today because there is a lawsuit against the county by the Ohio Attorney General that followed up the O.C.R.C. complaint regarding the application form. The Prosecutor's Office has a verbal agreement with

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the Ohio Attorney General's Office attorney that if the Civil Rights Committee could design a new form for Medina County, they would drop the case. Commissioner Ray is still awaiting the formal response. The suit was filed because the Attorney General was going to lose jurisdiction if he had not filed the case. It has been dragged out and made to look worse than it is because of their incompetence and inability to handle their workload. In order to protect their ability to justify their position, they decided to file a lawsuit.

Emily said she would get in touch with Carol Shockley and get a rough draft out the week before the next meeting. Council can make comments at the next meeting and they can make any changes. It should be able to be put into final form by June 1, 2004.

Brian Feron thanked all the Council members and Ex-officio members that worked so hard on the Admissions Policy – Cheryl Scheck, Emily Muscatello, Ken Miller, Tanya Rodgers, Skip Sipos, Joyce Farnsworth, Lynn Remington, and Carol Shockley.

Marketing – Brochure, Traveling presentation

Ken Miller said the committee met to come up with a County Home brochure for the Home and Flower Show. They reviewed some of the brochures from other counties and facilities. They discovered the current Medina County Home brochure layout was still very adequate and Steve Hambley provided the information that they needed within it. They will look at it after the show to see if they need to revise it. Ken showed them some expensive hi-gloss color brochures from assisted living facilities to show them “what they are up against”.

Ken said the Marketing Committee discussed participating in the Resource Council so Joyce Farnsworth is looking into that for future exposure. They are also looking at everything involved with being a stop on the Fall Foliage Tour and all of its ramifications such as disturbing residents; repairs that would need to be made before everyone sees it; having sufficient parking, etc. The next Marketing Committee meeting is immediately following this meeting.

Jo Becks named some of the places where they have passed or will pass out brochures – the Office for Older Adults, Hospitals, Library, and the Medina Eagles Club. Ken said he passed out some to the Senior Interagency Community Assessment Team (ICAT), Jobs & Family Services staff, and the MRDD Office. Randy Schmidt will pass out information to Veterans' Services Office.

Steve Hambley said he pulled the information for the brochure from the web site and just “tweaked” it a little bit, added some sentences, and gave a rough draft to the Print Shop. He feels they deserve credit for the majority of the combined effort.

Ken said Skip Sipos suggested an Open House at the County Home because some people need to see it to get past the stigma of thinking of it as the “Poor House”. It was suggested that County Home personnel and CH Advisory Council members be available on the Senior ICAT process,

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which is comprised of MRDD, ADAMH Board, JFS, ADDS, and Alternative Paths. They meet weekly and give information and referrals to solve individual's problems. Another marketing tool they discussed would be a Power Point presentation with a laptop computer for on-site demos.

Industry Information: Ohio Access Success Project (Plain Dealer 3/24/04)

Brian Feron said there is a new program called the Ohio Access Success Project that talks about state funding on a pilot basis to get people out of nursing homes that do not require nursing care. He wrote to the PD reporter to get more information.

Emily Muscatello said she was at the Ohio Healthcare Caucus and many nursing home administrators there were upset about the program. An ombudsman is on a search to see which residents do not belong in a nursing home. They are quietly keeping a list at this point. There are many residents in nursing homes that do not belong in them at a cost of about \$5,000 per month. The County Home would be a great resource for these people as well as group homes and foster homes.

Since the County Home can only accommodate a few more people, Ken Miller asked if they had a waiting list policy, and Lynn said they did.

Administrator's Report

Lynn Remington, Assistant County Home Administrator, reported that there are currently 50 residents. They have had two inquiries and one walk-thru of potential residents. They terminated an employee and four employees are on sick leave. They have had several training sessions – CPR, First Aid, Fire System, and Tornado Drills. The grill over the stove in the basement will cost approximately \$8,000 to update. The hallway floor has been completed. The monitoring system is installed. They started working with the Suburban Labs and that is working out very well. A small washer and a whirlpool are going down so they are looking into prices.

Other Business

There was no other business this evening.

Public Input

Carole Feron, Montville Township Resident, asked about the legality of an insert about the Friends of the County Home in the Helping Hands Newsletter for senior citizens. Steve Hambley said he would check into it.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m. The next meeting is Wednesday, April 28th.

Respectfully submitted,
Pam Vereb, Secretary