

VALLEY HI COMMITTEE
McHenry County Valley-Hi Nursing Home
2406 Hartland Road
Woodstock IL 60098

MINUTES OF THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2007

Chairman Zierer called the Valley Hi Committee meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. The following Committee Members were present: Mary Lou Zierer, Chairman; Ed Dvorak; James Kennedy; Peter Merkel; and Dan Shea. Jim Heisler arrived at 8:36a.m. Mary McCann arrived at 8:45a.m. Also in attendance: Kenneth D. Koehler, County Board Chairman; Peter Austin; County Administrator; Ralph Sarbaugh, Associate County Administrator – Finance; Cathy Link, Purchasing; Revere Representatives, interested employees, and the press.

Mary Lou Zierer, Chairman	
Ed Dvorak	James Heisler
James Kennedy	Mary McCann
Pete Merkel	Dan Shea

MINUTES

Mr. Shea made a motion, seconded by Mr. Kennedy to recommend approval of the Valley Hi committee minutes of October 4, 2007 as presented. The motion carried with all members present voting aye.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

PRESENTATIONS

None

NEW BUSINESS

2008 Meeting Dates/Times: Chairman Zierer questioned committee members regarding the meeting times of the committee. It was agreed that the committee meeting times and places should remain as is with the committee members meeting on the second Thursday of the month at 8:30a.m. The meetings are to be held every other month at Valley Hi and then the Administration Building.

FY08 Budget Adjustments: Revere Healthcare, Code Alert and Risk Management Insurance: Mr. Sarbaugh informed committee members that the FY08 budget is currently on display. A change will be needed on the board floor on November 20th to include the Revere Healthcare Contract amount, the Code Alert equipment to address the elopement issues and the increased cost for the Risk Management Insurance. Because of favorable claims, Valley Hi can increase their insurance coverage to \$10,000,000. These budget adjustments will be forwarded to the Finance Committee and to the County Board. The budget adjustments will be read on the County Board floor at the November 20th meeting. Mr. Shea made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dvorak to recommend approval of the above budget adjustments, with the adjustments to be read on the County Board floor at the November 20, 2007 meeting. The motion carried with all members present voting aye on a roll call vote (Dvorak, Kennedy, Merkel, Shea, Zierer)

Mr. Heisler arrived at 8:36a.m.

Chairman Zierer requested introductions of the Revere Healthcare personnel who will be working on issues at Valley Hi. Introductions included Grant Shumway, President; Pam Shumway, Vice President Management Services and the Interim Administrator of Valley Hi; Linda Pyfer, Operations/Management Consultant (will be the Valley Hi full time Administrator once she has received her Illinois Administrators license). Other individuals that are from Revere Healthcare that will be working at Valley Hi include John Smith, Financial Systems and Reimbursement Consultant; Chris Dials, Marketing, Public Relations and IT Consultant and Carol Sichterman, Dietary Consultant. Revere has spent the first couple of weeks meeting with the residents and current staff of the facility. They are reviewing current policies and procedures and current practices within the operations of the facility. Over the next few weeks surveys will be conducted to determine any regulatory compliance issues that need to be addressed. They will also conduct detailed audits of each department within the facility. After completion of the audits an action plan will be developed with an estimated timeline for completion. One main concern is the amount of nursing agency staff used by the facility and open nursing positions. They will be working to identify the reasons for the open positions and develop solutions to address and fill these vacancies. Additional goals are to obtain a regular staff that the residents can get to know. They will also be increasing Medicare income for the facility. A management report will be developed on how to run the facility. They will address the goals suggested in the report and provide an update on issues of concern. It was also suggested that they review concerns as noted in the Management Audit and show the action plan to address these concerns as well.

Ms. McCann arrived at 8:45a.m.

Construction Update: Ms. Link informed committee members that they are working on creating a list of outstanding warranty and project close out issues. The warranty will expire on the 27th of this month and it will be necessary to identify any remaining issues at the facility. Some of the issues that have been identified are frayed carpet, warped doors and drainage issue in the parking lot.

Chairman Zierer noted that McHenry County College has been approved to start a nursing program. She questioned if it would be feasible to sponsor a scholarship program to address the nursing shortage at Valley Hi. It was noted that a scholarship would be good, but, it does not guarantee continued employment after completion of the program. Revere personnel noted that they have a list of colleges in the area to post employment offers and identify Valley Hi as a place to complete needed clinicals. It was suggested that the legalities of a scholarship program be looked into. It was suggested that this be a project for the Valley Hi Foundation. It was stated that it is difficult to get students to commit to something years down the line. Additional suggestions included sign on bonuses, to be paid at the end of a specific term of service, and to place donations received at Valley Hi be placed into a scholarship program. It was noted that one of the bigger problems with the nursing programs is the unavailability of teachers for program. This will be the biggest challenge for McHenry County College.

OLD BUSINESS

Building Commissioning: Committee members were reminded that it was suggested that a commission of Valley Hi be completed. Ms. Link noted that a commissioning of a building is usually done in the pre planning stages of building a new facility so they can follow the construction of the building from the beginning stages. Ms. Link noted that the commissioning may not have given the results the committee wanted as most of the issues have been cosmetic in nature.

Chairman Zierer informed committee members there are nine residents of Valley Hi who does not have any family and the committee has sponsored these individuals during Christmas so they would receive gifts. Suggested donations for the facility include body wash, depends, undershirts and long underwear.

An activity calendar was provided to committee members for review. It was suggested that this calendar be placed on the County webpage.

Committee members questioned if they have had a large number of nurses quit the facility in light of the required 40 hour work week. It was noted that one nurse retired and one resigned, prior to notification of the 40 hour work week. Since implementation of the change, four additional nurses have left, but, staff feel in the long run the requirement to work the 40 hours will help the facility.

Committee members questioned the pay scale for nursing staff at Valley Hi, including CNA's, compared to the surrounding market. It was noted this would be brought back at a later date for review.

Committee members noted that in the past a "candy stripper" program was held in area hospitals where these individuals were able to obtain their CNA certificate while serving in this capacity. It was noted that these programs are still offered in the area. A CAN class used to be held at Valley Hi and Revere is researching why it was discontinued in the past and are hopeful to re-implement the program in the near future.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

REPORTS TO COMMITTEE

None

COMMITTEE MEMBERS COMMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Dvorak made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shea to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 a.m. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

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RECOMMENDED FOR COMMITTEE/BOARD ACTION:

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Approved: 12/13/07