

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

MINUTES OF THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2008

Chairman Zierer called the Valley Hi Committee meeting to order at 8:32 a.m. The following Committee Members were present: Mary Lou Zierer, Chairman; James Heisler; James Kennedy; Ed Dvorak and Dan Shea. Mary McCann arrived at 8:34a.m. Pete Merkel was absent. Also in attendance: Ken Koehler, County Board Chairman; Pete Austin, County Administrator; Representatives from Revere Healthcare; Cathy Link, Purchasing; John Hadley, Facilities Management; Bob Yearian, Valley Hi Administrator; interested public, residents and staff.

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

MINUTES

Committee members reviewed the committee minutes for October 9, 2008. Mr. Shea made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dvorak, to recommend approval of the minutes as presented. The minutes were approved with all members present voting aye.

PRESENTATIONS: None

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

Ms. McCann arrived at 8:34a.m.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution authorizing the appointment of Susan Rychlik, M.D. as Medical Director for Valley Hi Nursing Home: Committee members reviewed a Resolution authorizing the appointment of Susan Rychlik, M.D. as Medical Director for Valley Hi Nursing Home. Committee members were informed that Dr. Rychlik has had patients at the facility for over 14 years, so she is very familiar with the facility. She has been recommended as a replacement for the Medical Director by Dr. Reyes. Mr. Heisler made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dvorak to recommend approval of the above Resolution as presented. The motion carried with all members present voting aye on a voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS

Chairman Zierer questioned if an oxygen room had been built at the facility to address those residents that require oxygen treatments. Mr. Yearian noted that Valley Hi does not require the need for an oxygen room. The facility is using a concentrator, which provides oxygen treatments to those in need, without the need for a special room. The concentrator does not use an oxygen tank so a specialized room is not needed.

Committee members were informed that the facility has not received any additional complaints concerning the food service at Valley Hi. The Monday Morning Chats continue with most concerns now being resident specific. There have been no wide spread issues. Systems are now in place to address the concerns of the residents. A card file system has been implemented to note each residents likes and dislikes.

Mr. Hadley reported that Valley Hi is in the process of installing a trench drain. This is being installed so that the property to the south of Valley Hi does not flood because of issues at Valley Hi. He noted they wanted to address any concerns that may result in standing water issues. This was sent out for bid.

The sprinkler systems for the canopies have been installed per IDPH specifications.

A test well is being drilled on the Valley Hi property. This facility is in the center of Hartland Township and is a good location for the well. They are at 150' and will continue drilling until they hit bedrock.

Mr. Hadley informed committee members that two of the hot water heaters have been replaced for the third time. He noted that these items are covered by the manufacturer's warranty. He noted that he is working with the architect regarding the design and installation of these water heaters. They are questioning what is causing these issues, and questioning why they start leaking in such a short time. The issue is being corrected.

The safety committee recommended that the computer tables lowered for resident's use. They have also implemented the use of door "hold open" bags. The facility has identified key doors where these are allowed for use. These are to be used instead of door wedges.

FUTURE TOPICS

Chairman Zierer noted that this will be her last committee meeting and requested that the committee think about those residents in the facility that do not have any family to make sure they have gifts for Christmas. A list of those residents in need will be provided to committee members. She noted that the facility is always in need of body wash for the residents.

REPORTS TO COMMITTEE, AS APPLICABLE

Administrator's Report: Mr. Yearian provided an Administrator's report for committee members. New hires and terminations were discussed with committee members. The employee of the month is Amber Cling. The facility is now in compliance

on the life safety codes received from the IDPH. Some sanctions were received because of these issues. The facility did not receive and payments for new residents for Medicare and Medicaid recipients. When a facility is not in compliance, sanctions are rendered. Committee members were informed that these sanctions are usually quite hefty and Valley Hi was lucky in that they were only sanctioned by not receiving any payments for new admissions for Medicare or Medicaid recipients for the month. This sanction had the lowest impact possible to the facility.

Mr. Yearian noted that there has been a lot of increased interest to the facility. They have seen an increase in individuals requesting tours of the facility. There are currently 130 individual on the waiting list. Entrance is made on a case by case assessment.

Family nights are held monthly at the facility. These nights are created to allow residents and families to provide answers to questions surrounding long term care. Reminders of these meetings are sent out with the residents bills.

The previous candidate being considered for the dietary manager position was unable to accept the position because of health issues. The second candidate has been notified and accepted the position. She has been a long term care dietary manager for a number of years. If this person does not work out, there is another candidate available for consideration.

An effort is being made to remind physicians of their requirements to visit their patients within the facility.

Mr. Yearian noted that Revere has two main objectives which are to reduce agency use, which are costly. Conversations are being held with staff to inform them of scheduling changes to meet the needs of the facility. The facility will not have as many people scheduled on a given shift but they should be able to do their jobs with the ones scheduled. Management Staff will address any shortages should they occur. This is being done to reduce the use of agency staff as well as provide continuity of staff. There are a lot of pit falls with the continued use of agency staff. They requested patience while making the switch.

The facility has increased Medicare Utilization.

Brochures are being created for Valley Hi. This will be a tri fold brochure promoting the facility and their ability to provide rehab services. This service enhances Medicaid utilization as well.

They are looking at what the nursing needs of the county are. It was noted that there are a growing number of providers that provide care for assisted or long term care. Custodial care is now moving to residential care. They are questioning how to best meet the needs of the facility. They want to make sure they are obtaining the skill sets needed for the facility.

Committee members questioned if using a bed for a rehab patient if the facility would still meet its mission to help the indigent. It was noted that rehab patients qualify for Medicare, so this fulfills the mission statement as well. Mr. Austin noted that the private sector is growing and it is necessary to keep an eye on this project on how to position the county for the future. This issue will move slowly and staff is always mindful of the resident mix. They need to remain flexible to resident s as well and this is a service that can be provided. This project will be reviewed as time goes on and is brought up to bring awareness to the committee. The changes being seen in the market will affect all in the healthcare industry and they will keep an eye on changes being made. Committee members agreed they should move forward with the project.

Mr. Austin noted that when discussing the goals for the coming year the big picture goals included increasing Medicare and reducing agency use. They are also looking at long term viability of the facility after Revere turns back control of the facility to the County and are transitioning the business office for these changes. They are already training staff to streamline their processes and the flow of information going to the County. Chairman Koehler noted that one of the biggest Capitol investments made at a medical facility is for the flow of data so there is no lost revenue. If lost billing could be recovered, it makes a huge difference to the facility. It is important the facility obtains better software and the staff is trained on this software. He noted that he sees some very positive changes and a more efficient run facility.

Financial Statement: Committee members reviewed the current financial statement for the facility. The financial statement is used as a management tool. Committee members questioned if the expenses for the facility are higher in the winter. Committee members were informed that utility costs increase during the winter months.

Residents Council: Committee members were informed there are still a few residents that meet with Mr. Yearian on Monday mornings, for their "Monday morning chats". This has been very instrumental in addressing resident complaints and has allowed the facility to address the resident's concerns. The food is now arriving on their plates hot and is good. Committee members were informed that the residents are very happy with the new Nursing Director and are happy with the changes they are seeing made in the facility.

Committee members questioned if the quality first program has been implemented. Committee members were informed that the information has been turned over to the Quality Assurance person and after she is done reviewing the criteria, she will be able to start the implementation of the program.

Committee members thanked Mary Lou Zierer for her many years of service on the County Board. Mary Lou noted that this is her last committee meeting and she is leaving a good facility in the hands of a great staff. She noted that she would continue with work at the facility and keep an eye on things. Committee members noted that they are pleased with the changes being made. Chairman Koehler thanked Ms. Zierer for her many years of dedication to Valley hi and noted that Valley Hi has a "heart" because of her. The facility is lucky to have obtained Mr. Yearian as the Administrator and has seen very positive changes because of the changes implemented by you, Mary Lou. Committee members noted that they expect to hear from Mary Lou in the future. Mary Lou stated she was excited to see the changes being made at the facility. Resident Council members presented a card to Mary Lou and cake and refreshments were provided to wish Mary Lou well in her retirement.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Dvorak made a motion, seconded by Mr. Heisler to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 a.m. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

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RECOMMENDED FOR BOARD/COMMITTEE ACTION:

Resolution authorizing the appointment of Susan Rychlik, M.D. as Medical Director for Valley Hi Nursing Home
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