ORIGINAL

Minutes EFC 5/17/13

Present: Reps. Gottling, Grenier, Schmidt
Arriving later: Reps. Gagnon, Irwin
County Manager Chainis, Ted Purdy, SCHC

Meeting called to order at 1:10 p.m.

Committee reviewed revenue sources for SCHC.

1. Medicaid is somewhat higher than last year. Depends on accurate tracking of residents' acuity level of services. Mr. Purdy explained the state's budget neutrality factor that results in underfunding of services between 25 to 32% of actual costs.

2. Private pay clients comprise a small but important element in revenues. The rate per day is $265 for semi-private room and $295 for private room.

3. Proshare is a large segment of revenue and increased last year from budgeted number. This year's budget is set at a point midway between the expected $1,000,000 and actual $2,000,000. Proshare is intended to make up some of the difference created by the budget neutrality factor.

4. Medicaid assessment, otherwise called the bed tax, is a 5.5% tax on all nursing homes' revenue and is designed to increase our federal match. Money returned to the state from this tax goes only to county nursing homes.

Mr. Purdy reported that our nursing home is the 2nd most efficient in the state. About 5% of the Sullivan County budget is for the SCHC. About 14% of the taxes raised is used for the SCHC.

The SCHC is asking for a part-time receptionist for the front desk. A long time volunteer is no longer available. Other volunteers will supplement the part-time employee.

Discussion centered next on the scope of electronic record keeping and the security process for drugs. Mr. Purdy explained both processes at length.

The nursing staff continues to function with staff employed directly by SCHC and lightly supplemented with agency nurses. This is a significant change from several years ago when agency staffing was heavily needed. Questions were asked about the merit pay system.

The committee reviewed staffing in the other departments of SCHC. It appears that the plan implemented by Mr. Purdy over the years has resulted in a staff that can cope with the typical increases and decreases in client numbers. A highlight

of the staffing plan is the creation of "neighborhoods." Every effort is made to have the same staff members work with the same residents consistently cutting down on residents need to adjust and allowing staff to develop deeper understanding of the residents in their care.

Questions were asked about services for residents who have no ability to pay or are not eligible for reimbursement. When this happens, the resident must be provided needed services that are subsidized by the county. Residents are not initially admitted who have no ability to pay or eligibility for reimbursement.

The last inspection of SCHC was in Sept. 2012 and it was very successful with only one minor problem cited.

EFC members reviewed capital expenditure for the SCHC and the merits of an overall county long-term capital plan was explored. Commissioner Jeff Barrette sat in on this discussion and said the Commissioners were intending to ask for such a plan.

The budget for the SCHC reflects the increases in costs for staff health care plans and for the retirement system. In general, the budget reflects careful use of taxpayer money.

The chair adjourned the meeting at 4:15 pm.

Rep. Sue Gottling

Rep. Sue Gottling
Acting Clerk

Date approved: 6/10/13