

Taunton Nursing Home

350 Norton Avenue, Taunton, MA 02780

508-822-1132

Board of Directors Minutes

Date: March 28, 2016

Board Members: Theresa Swartz, Chair
Joseph Martin
Ed Boiros

Also present were:

John A. Brennan, Administrator

Heidi Paquin, DON

Helen Boarman, SDC

Adrienne Boutin, LSW

City Council President Jeanne Quinn

City Council Members Estele Borges, John McCaul, Gerald Crouteau and Dan Dermody

Meeting called to order at 6:07pm

Mr. Martin moved and Mr. Boiros seconded to approve the minutes of the February 29, 2016 meeting. It was unanimous.

Administrators Report

Make a note that the meeting agenda was forwarded to Rosie Blackwell and Colleen Ellis on March 17, 2016 for this meeting.

We had a deficiency free DPH survey and we sent a letter to all families. We also had a staff pizza party.

Life Safety Survey

We had our Life Safety survey and there were two issues. One is that we need to put two walkways out to the road (driveway) at the two exits. It is a new DPH requirement that if you have an exit it must go out to a solid surface. Mark Slusarz, the City Civil Engineer, is coming out tomorrow to draw up a plan. The requirement is on the last page of the survey. One walkway is forty feet the other is eighty feet. Wayne Walkden and Tony Abreau have been notified also. The other issue is the basement door which is inside the building going

to the kitchen. It isn't fireproof with a lock and secure; it goes into a storage area. It has been put into the Facility Dude which is the master software for the city. Usually the time frame for an answer is within the same week. If the City cannot do it in a reasonable time it still needs to be done.

Room Rates

The room rate proposal has been provided to the Board for review. The original price of all rooms in the facility is \$225.00 per day. We repriced the rooms, two private are the highest and we are well within the parameters of the other nursing homes in Taunton. We are still low. I will get the room rates for the other nursing homes for comparison. We will mail and email information to the Board in the future. We will look for notification by July 1st. The net effect of this will not be a large increase in cash. We haven't increased our rates in years. I will give the Board the room rates with three year increments. Theresa would like to see different rates for the different types of rooms. When this is approved it has to go out to every resident and be part of the admission packet. Joe would like it to be a legal notice in the Gazette. All Private Pay residents are now \$225.00 per day.

User Fees

Milford Housing Authority would like to take a shot with us and Nantucket. Right now we pay a \$600,000.00 User Fee, and basically the state gives us \$600,000.00 and then takes the \$600,000.00, which is generally neutral. It's a cost to the City and we visited this over the years. The big savings is \$600,000.00 to the City; it's a no expense expense. Again it's a neutral thing. Certain facilities in Norfolk County and under 100 beds are exempt from the User Fee. I also included in the packet the original petition that made the Milford Housing Authority. There are two stories, Milford has been very successful and Holyoke crashed and burned with over \$2million in debt. This would be referred to the Boston Attorneys. Theresa would like an explanation for the Board with the pros and cons. I suggest I speak to Attorney Buffington before I get a letter of engagement for this from the Board. One down side is you are no longer an enterprise account and when there are cuts to be made you can't reach out to the city for extra expenditures. It would be a Home Rule Petition. We would be working very closely with Senator Pacheco on this.

Medical Director

A letter was sent to Dr. Thayer the Medical Director at Morton but haven't heard back from him, will call COO at Morton and see if she can get me a meeting with Dr. Thayer. Our Medical Director Contract expires on June 30, 2016. Dr. Ryan Welter is our current Medical Director and his contract is \$3000 per month. Spoke with Dr. Welter he is willing to remain. Dr. Weintraub is also interested in that position. The key thing is our relationship with Morton hospital. Steward has their own physicians group and Schwartz, Welter and Weintraub are considered rounders' for Steward Medical Group but Welter is the only one

with admitting privileges at Morton and that is key. The DON disagrees on that point and that is something that needs to be decided before July 1st. Estele Borges spoke with Dr. Thayer at the last meeting and he is very interested in having a conversation.

2017 Budget

We have submitted the 2017 budget to the City, it is still rough around the edges we are submitting a realistic budget this year and we have been looking at decreases in staffing levels and contracting out other departments. Michelle was not able to attend tonight.

Theresa- Going forward the Board should be involved in the process of the budget.

John-The number is based on daily average census and expenses. We received the pension indirect cost; we are waiting for the healthcare indirect cost.

Theresa-How can we review a budget without the numbers?

John-Medicaid rates are not going up enough to cover pension or healthcare increases but the CPE comes in with 50%. Police and Fire do not get indirect costs. Average Medicaid rate in this state is \$38.00 less than Medicaid costs. The Nursing Home Association has been fighting this for years.

Theresa-Would like the Board to be involved with the budget process from the beginning.

John-The other part of the budget is that we need 1 million dollars in capital improvement money.

Theresa - The walkways come first not the windows. You need to put your priorities first, walkways, windows, electric beds and nurse call system.

The two water meter valves have been changed, it was completed Thursday. There was no problem. The Community Garden is now on a separate meter.

The kitchen red door replacement is underway. Strojny has ordered the door and it should be installed momentarily. I have a lot of confidence in Strojny.

Room sign samples were passed around for approval. The choices were black/white or gray/white. Black and white would be difficult for residents with macular degeneration. It was decided to use the gray signs.

501c3

Friends of Taunton Nursing Home Fundraising group haven't heard anything further. Carolyn Basler had an email from Barry Sanders stating he had been in touch with someone who was willing to help him with the filing of paperwork and he would need a group of about three people to be listed as officers and there would be an approximate \$400.00 filing fee. The original discussion was that we need money for things; the idea was that this group could do some serious fundraising. Families often prefer a charitable fund for donations. There is an activities account within the City of Taunton, where donations are

deposited and the money is used for the resident activities above and beyond the regular activities budget.

Theresa – Why can't we have a separate checking account for the activities department?
Dr. Crouteau - The 501c3 would be a separate account for the residents. It would be a non-profit group. The account would have designated signees. In terms of grants being 501c3 would make the nursing home more eligible. Part of the application is the intent of the organization. The group would be tax exempt.

Carolyn Basler-Initially the intent of the group was to help with short term needs not to go out for large grants. It's more to supplement the environment of the residents. Theresa would like the Activities Director to attend the next meeting; the activities are stale right now.

The Red Sox opening day is scheduled for April 11, 2016 and the Honorable Thomas C. Hoye, Jr. is scheduled to throw out the first pitch. It's well advertised and Mr. Brennan will make sure to contact the Gazette.

Rose Blackwell was here to perform the Valentines Marriage Ceremony and the couple that was married the longest was 63 years, unfortunately his wife passed away this past week.

In the Board packet are a couple of handouts, one is from the Gazette about a woman taking thousands from her father in law and this is the type of thing we are pursuing with the District Attorney. We have a private attorney John Paul Thomas who we have engaged to handle the civil side in these cases however we are pursuing the financial senior abuse with the District Attorney. We have five significant accounts that the District Attorney is working on.

There are two articles from the Boston Globe one March 24 and one March 27 regarding nursing home debt and poor care. The point is that DPH is getting serious about substandard care. These are just FYI's and interesting reads.

Also, there is a letter regarding the MASSmap system that the nursing home is involved in. If there is an emergency it activates a system and we get mutual aid. We are also tied into TEMA.

Just received a resume for Administrator, Theresa asked that it be sent to Maria Gomes, HR Director to follow protocol.

We are very close to hiring a new Admissions Coordinator she is an LICSW. Heidi asked to have the opportunity to interview her.

Helen Boarman - The dementia video is available on YouTube through Oasis and it is shown to the orientees. Theresa would like to have the video presented at a Board Meeting. The video gives you an outline of dementia and what the nursing homes need to deal with.

Theresa - There was a trade show last week, why didn't we go to that.

John - I have attended in the past and the reason to go is to meet vendors and I didn't feel it necessary to attend.

Theresa feels it should be attended by Heidi and the Administrator in the future.

The team has selected a new vendor for the pharmacy.

With regard to Housekeeping, given the reimbursement situation, we would like to consider contracting out the laundry. It would be 4 jobs at 112 hours. Nearly every nursing home has it contracted out in conjunction with the housekeeping contract. When DPH came in they thought the building was looking clean.

Theresa-Thought you were going to give us the pros and cons of making a change.

John-We have all the math done it is a 40-50% savings; the benefits are part of that overhead.

Theresa -I want to see the structure on paper not just talk about it. It's a big issue and something for the Board to consider. We have to figure out what's right for us, we're doing personal care; we need to make sure it is done correctly.

Theresa- We have had a couple of interviews and some second interviews, we haven't made an offer. I have not heard from Maria Gomes, she had two other resumes. There are not a half dozen great resumes out there.

John-The protocol within the city is to do a CORI first.

Estele Borges - Called today to get the package information , would like it to be sent to the Clerk of Committees to be given to the Council for review before the meetings.

DON Report

Heidi has been on vacation this week.

Theresa- We need to have a protocol so that if Heidi is not available the information is available to us.

Guest- Last meeting you talked about increasing the Medicare beds and was confused about your protocol with joint commission.

Theresa-We were just talking about that if you wanted to go into managed care you could go into Joint Commission and get more managed care. That's an alternative to look at; we would have to look at managed care not Medicare.

John - All of our beds are Medicare certified.

Theresa-If we decide to look at different plans we would need to be Joint Commission certified. The types of patients we are getting now are dementia, they are custodial type patients, and we need to think about bringing in patients that are higher certified.

John -Had a discussion with the Steward Liaison and they will be getting together to discuss the Stewards ACLs.

Theresa-The three buildings I see are not getting any more referrals and there is very strict criteria and if you don't have the documentation done you don't get your reimbursement.

Adrienne - I do not want us to become an ACL there are so many deadlines and focusing on those deadlines is the needs of the residents is being overlooked, it's not realistic.

Carolyn Basler- how is the CNA recruitment going?

Heidi -We have had a few girls come in through Lifestream. Everything will be explained to the Board in the packet they receive from me.

Helen - Problem we had in the past was getting the physicals done. Now per Maria Gomes we are sending them over to urgent care and then it is billed to the City and the City will bill the employee, they can pay it in one lump sum or have money taken from there pay weekly to cover it.

Theresa - We advertise on Monster.com. They should also be on the bulletin board at City Hall and in the Gazette.

Heidi-The problem is people are going to where the cash is not for benefits.

Joe-The 1144 Contract has defined steps and no matter the experience you start at Step 1.

Estele Borges- The agendas have been on the city website.

Theresa-Does the council have people to be presented for Board Members?

Jeanne Quinn- We will discuss it tomorrow at our meeting and we will schedule interviews after that. The change in the ordinance was just finalized last week.

Mr. Martin moved and Mr. Boiros seconded to adjourn at 8:12pm. Unanimously Approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelley A. McGovern
Recording Secretary