

CITY-COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES

Special Board Meeting

January 5, 2016

PRESENT: Sharon Buhr, Chair
Dr. James Buhr, Secretary
Tom Overn, Vice Chair
Cindy Schwehr

ABSENT: Madeline Luke.

ALSO PRESENT: Theresa Will, RN, Director
Paula Thomsen, DON, CCHD
Angie Martin, Office Manager

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting was called to order at 3:35 p.m. by Sharon Buhr, Chair, in the CCHD conference room.

AGENDA: Approved as printed.

MINUTES: Board members reviewed the minutes of Dec. 22, 2015 regular Board meeting. Dr. Buhr made a motion to approve the minutes. Second by Overn. Unanimous vote, motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS: CCHD facility update: Nothing to report.

Home Care: Board reviewed the home care budget for 2016 (prepared in 2015). Budgeted revenue for 2016 is \$210,000 and budgeted expenses are \$187,837, leaving a projected profit of \$22,163. This will not be likely, however, due to changes related to therapy. Currently, CCHD has budgeted \$21,900 for therapy in 2016, based on \$85/visit charged by CHI Mercy Health (hospital) in past years. Due to problems with therapy over the past few months, home care will likely end 2015 in the red.

Therapy options were reviewed. Two most favorable options were Thielges (provides therapy at Sheyenne Care Center) and Essentia Health. Based on an average of 250 visits per year, Thielges would charge \$90-\$120/visit. for an annual projected cost of \$22,500 to \$30,000/yr. Thielges offers PT, OT and ST services. Essentia, utilizing Luke Bopp as a therapist locally, has proposed \$85/visit + .54/mile for PT, for an annual projected cost of \$21,250. Occupational therapy and speech therapy would cost \$45/hr. drive time from Fargo + .54/mile (number of visits requiring OT or ST is unknown, though we have only had a handful of ST visits in the past two years). Didn't receive any applications for part-time PT position. CHI Mercy Health at Home and CHI (Mercy Hospital) would both charge more than Thielges or Essentia. Reviewed cost projections handout provided by Will.

Board discussed four options regarding the future of home care at CCHD:

- Continue with home care in full.
- Stop therapy and continue to provide Medicare home care services for those who don't need therapy.
- Stop all certified home care services and continue public health home visits.
- Stop ALL home care visits.

Schwehr made a motion to continue with home care in full. Second by Overn. Discussion followed. Schwehr stated she favors continuing in full so home care doesn't go backwards. Will noted that nationwide, public health is moving toward population health, advocacy and policies, systems and environment change, and away from direct service. Sharon Buhr and Overn stated they want to see that the needs of people in Barnes County are met, noting that some people need one-on-one contact. Board members were reminded that if a Medicare client ends up in self pay swing bed, CCHD is still responsible to pay PT while they are there because they are on a 60-day Medicare episode. Will told the Board that if they opt to continue home care in full, she may need to look at hiring an additional part-time (10-15 hrs/week) RN. Since Julie Hoar, R.N., retired in December the other nurses have absorbed her hours. This may ultimately lead to issues with scheduling vacations, dependent sick leave, etc. Board members agreed that the nurses may have to deal with reduced choices to make scheduling work, which is happening at other medical facilities too. The Board will continue to review the home care situation on a regular basis in the coming six months to a year. The Board cast a unanimous vote to continue with home care in full. Motion carried.

With the home care continuation decision made, the Board discussed which therapy provider to choose. Will noted that CCHD doesn't necessarily need to contract for speech therapy as we currently have David Bergstadt of Wimbledon providing this service and CCHD hasn't done much speech therapy for clients in the past two years. Home care will likely see occupational therapy (OT) utilized more under Thielges or Essentia since CHI (hospital) PT usually incorporated the OT visit with their PT visit in the past. This likely will not be the case under Thielges or Essentia. OT has typically been a one-time visit, according to Paula Thomsen, DON, but this could change with a change in therapy provider. Usually, a referral includes both PT and OT. It was noted that Thielges has a good history regarding home visits and they are a stable company. Will stated that the proposed rates for Essentia have not been confirmed yet. With Thielges, PT and OT costs will be \$60/hr. With Essentia, OT cost would be significantly more due to drive time and mileage from Fargo. Dr. Buhr made a motion to allow Will and Thomsen to select the best option for therapy services. Second by Overn. Unanimous vote, motion carried.

Thomsen stated she would like home care visits limited to Barnes County only rather than include a 10-mile radius outside the county as has been the case in the past several years. She believes this would cut down on travel time and expenses. Dr. Buhr suggested CCHD maintain a one-mile radius outside Barnes County so that our service area includes Tower City. Will and Thomsen noted that the 10-mile radius is covered by other agencies, though Cass County agencies will not travel to the Tower City area. Dr. Buhr made a motion that the CCHD home care service area cover all Barnes County and a one-mile radius outside the county. Second by Overn. Unanimous vote, motion carried.

The Board granted permission for Will to try to hire an additional part-time R.N., with the understanding that this may be a temporary position.

Will reported that Dr. Warne, NDSU, will get back to her within the next month or so regarding the community health project, and the possibility of using community health workers in Barnes County through a pilot project with NDSU. This was discussed at a previous Health Board meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: With no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m. The next regular monthly meeting will be **Tuesday, Jan. 26 at 3:30 p.m.** in the CCHD conference room.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. James Buhr, Secretary