

**ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT
PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

MINUTES

For Thursday, September 20, 2007

PRESENT: **Stephen Booth, PT/SLCPHD; Patricia Cryderman, SCHN/SLCPHD;
Robert Duda; Deborah Kent, DPS/SLCPHD; Michelle Perras, SCHN/
SLCPHD; Yvonne Turner, OT**

1. **ROLE CALL**

Role call was completed

2. **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES FOR JUNE 21, 2007 MEETING**

Minutes for the June 21, 2007 meeting were reviewed and accepted as written.

3. **INTRODUCTIONS**

Deborah Kent introduced Stephen Booth, the department's new part-time Physical Therapist, as a new member of the committee. He will be replacing Gary Bryant on the committee who will remain working with us as a contractor

4. **BUSINESS**

A. **CERTIFIED HOME HEALTH AGENCY PROGRAMS – D. Kent, DPS**

1. **Census – Trends**

Deborah Kent, DPS reported on the department's current trends and statistics. Number of referrals received, with hospitals being the primary referral source, was one of the statistics reviewed. Caseload statistics with number of nursing visits made per month was presented. Gouverneur office has the highest number of cases with Massena following; then Canton and Ogdensburg.

Debby mentioned that she has been doing individual caseload reviews with each nurse and it has been a very enlightening and learning experience. She stated she looked forward to continuing.

Physical therapy referrals were discussed. They are at almost 300 for the year and still growing. This is a significant increase over the past years.

Adverse events were discussed. We have had 13 falls, 12 wound infections, 2 UTIs; 5 unexpected nursing home admissions and 2 unexpected deaths.

There were 5 complaints this year. Three complaints involved missed visits by Home Health Aides, one complaint involved quality of care, and another involved our on-call number (beeper problems). All complaints have been addressed.

Patient Satisfaction surveys have a return rate of 30%. We currently have over 150 responses for the year which is much higher return than previous years. We had one negative comment this quarter and it was due to a misconception of services provided.

Acute care hospitalization was discussed. Our overall goal for 2008 is 31.7%. It looks as though we are currently on the correct track to reach that goal. The current focus is on flu and pneumonia shots. We would like to see all our clients and staff vaccinated this season.

Telephone Monitoring (telephone triage) is being practiced. Our staff is trying to reduce problems by interacting with clients over the phone before problems cause a client to go to the emergency room.

The department is currently looking at telemonitoring which involves placing equipment in the client's home to measure blood pressure, sugar levels, etc. We are currently waiting for a grant to help with the cost of the necessary equipment.

At the present time we have an Intern, Samantha, who is currently talking to other agencies with this capability to find out how they feel about the system and to hear about any problems they may have encountered. She is also looking for any grants that may be available to help fund this endeavor. She has experience in writing grants and knows what we will need. Pat Ward will also have her working with our migrant workers as she is fluent in Spanish.

The Oral Medication study was discussed. Our target for 2008 is 42.5%. The State's target is 90%. As of June we were at 37.9%. We are currently above New York State's average by 1%.

The Pain Management study is headed by Sandra Worden. Debby Kent told the committee that teaching tools regarding pain medication management were being stressed. If there is more than one pain medication being taken, the RN will teach the client how to take mild to moderate to severe meds per physician's order.

3. **Case Presentations**

Patti Cryderman, SCHN presented a case for CHHA. A LTC case was not presented.

4. **Long Term Home Health Care Program** – Deborah Kent, DPS

The Long Term Home Health Care Program has a current caseload of 57. Sandra Worden is currently conducting a promotional program to increase our caseload.

The 20-year celebration of the Long Term Care Program which was planned for October has been cancelled. Upon further investigation, it was discovered that the program was started in 1984; therefore, it has already been in existence for 23 years.

4. **Policy & Procedure Review**

The following polices were reviewed and accepted:

- Parameters for Reporting to Physician
- Emergency Preparedness Policy
- Epinephrine HCL Dosage Schedule for Treatment of Allergic Reactions/Anaphylaxis
- Pulse Oximetry

B. OTHER BUSINESS

1. **Next Meeting**

The next meeting has been rescheduled for December 13, 2007 from 3:00 – 4:30 in the large conference room in the Human Services Center.