

Gracedale Advisory Board
April 14, 2016
Minutes

Members Present: James Irwin; Susan L. Lawrence; MaryAnn McEvoy; Maryann Schmoyer; Kenneth Sun, MD; Honorable Robert Werner

Members Absent: Deborah Jean DeNardo, J.D.; Reverend David H. DeRemer; Ann Terres

Public Present: Judy Ryan

Staff Present: Cathy Allen, Susan Edwards, Allison Frantz, David Holland, Jennie Repsher, Hector Rivera

Call to Order/Welcome:

The meeting was called to order by J. Irwin, Chair. He extended a welcome to the visitors.

Approval of March's Minutes:

A motion was made by B. Werner and seconded by M. Schmoyer to accept the minutes from the March meeting. Motion carried.

Courtesy of the Floor:

By Guests:

It was noted that the cafeteria is receiving complaints because they only accept cash. A lot of business is being lost because cards are not accepted. It was recommended that the Director of Fiscal Affairs be contacted so something can be set up.

There was a question regarding the callout data on the dashboard. D. Holland stated that the information is from OnShift, and if there are questions regarding the accuracy, those who enter the info need to be made aware. There were over 1,000 callouts per month last year, and we are seeing a huge improvement this year.

By Committee Members:

The IGT (Intergovernmental Transfer) has been approved by County Council. Gracedale will receive \$2,465,251 for participating in the IGT; we only need to make sure which bank the money is going to. A. Frantz stated that Northampton County is not the only one having this issue, and the IGT deadline of April 22 has been extended.

C. Allen stated that the bed sale is almost finalized and we will receive a total of \$832,500. It was noted that this is only a one-time payment, which will help, but we need to continue with cost-efficiencies. D. Holland stated that it will reduce our bed count, meaning we will receive our bed hold money. It was noted that the CMI payment was not funded in the state budget.

It was asked if we will have to add part-time employees with more than 30 hours a week to our healthcare plan. C. Allen stated that administration is working with the union to hire more full-time employees. If we are paying benefits to the employees, we want them to work full time.

Chair Report:

J. Irwin was unable to attend the Volunteer Recognition Ceremony, and appreciated A. Terres filling in. A. Frantz distributed programs from the Volunteer Recognition Ceremony. B. Werner stated that the dinner was superb.

Director of Human Services Report:

A. Frantz thanked everyone who participated in the Volunteer Recognition Ceremony.

The electronic health record (EHR) software package has been causing some consternation. We have point people from both the county and NTT Data, and are seeing a positive change and momentum regarding our issues. Even with the problems we're experiencing, using the EHR is adding 30 minutes of patient care a month per patient. C. Allen stated that we conducted a test and have been communicating with NTT Data's top management. NTT Data stated they will send a tech person here for no charge. These issues should be rectified within the next few months. Both County Council and Administration have been more involved with this project.

The new Human Resources Director, Amy Trapp, has been examining HR at both Gracedale and the county as a whole. We have added a point person through Human Services, whose job is Human Resources. There will be changes and efficiencies; the goal is to be certain Gracedale employees receive the information they need in terms of HR, when they need it. They will not have to wait until the next day, or call the government center. C. Allen stated that these changes will also help us save on efficiencies with FMLA and ADA. It was noted that this will be a positive change. C. Allen stated that new efficiencies are also being created for positions in the kitchen and housekeeping.

There are roughly 2200 total employees at county, and 800 of them are at Gracedale. It was mentioned that the kitchen floor and parking lot projects are on target. C. Allen stated that a lot of money is being invested into Gracedale because it was neglected for so long. C. Allen stated that administration is working with the union and the employees to make things easier.

Gracedale Administrator's Report:

D. Holland asked if the proceeds from the bed sale will be added to Gracedale's budget, or put in the County's general fund. C. Allen stated that the money will first be placed in the general fund, and then transferred to Gracedale. J. Irwin stated that the money from the bed sale is supposed to go back to Gracedale. C. Allen stated that the county is trying to bring everything back that belongs at Gracedale. In years past, the money went to the general fund and stayed there. Now, Gracedale has an account, and those funds will be transferred to Gracedale.

D. Holland stated that Life Safety completed their follow up survey on April 6, and we are now back in compliance with the issues found during the original March inspection.

Next Meeting:

J. Irwin reminded Advisory Board members that the next meeting will be held on May 12, 2016, at 4:30 PM.

A motion was made by S. Lawrence and seconded by B. Werner to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennie R. Repsher