

Gracedale Advisory Board
June 14, 2018
Minutes

Members Present: Lori Vargo Heffner; Susan L. Lawrence; Maryann Schmoyer; Kenneth Sun, MD; LuAnn Vogel

Members Absent: Deborah Jean DeNardo, J.D.; Rosemarie Fehr; James Irwin; MaryAnn McEvoy

Public Present: Jack D'Allessandro, Honorable Robert Werner

Staff Present: Becky Bartlett, Raymond Soto, Jennifer Stewart-King, Jennie Repsher

Call to Order/Welcome:

The meeting was called to order by M. Schmoyer. She extended a welcome to the visitors.

Approval of May's Minutes:

A motion was made by L. Heffner and seconded by S. Lawrence second to accept the minutes from the May meeting. Motion carried.

Courtesy of the Floor:

By Guests:

B. Bartlett thanked R. Soto for taking some of the advisory board members on a tour of the facility before the meeting.

By Board Members:

None.

Chair Report:

None.

Director of Human Services Report:

None.

Gracedale Administrator's Report:

Admissions are slightly below the benchmark of 670. We have been receiving a large number of male referrals and are trying to create more male beds. It was asked if Gracedale is full. R. Soto stated that capacity is 688 beds; we are about 19 beds down.

The cost per resident day increased. CMI is at .88, which is good in terms of Medicaid census and will increase our intergovernmental transfer monies. Medicare reimbursement is slightly up, as is our net rate. Part B revenue is holding steady.

Our nursing hours per patient day are at 2.96; our goal is 3.2. We continue to work with Human Resources and Administration to provide new ideas for recruitment. We have a lot of applicants for the CNA training class and are trying to shift focus to LPNs and RNs. Overtime is trending upward and agency use remains the same. The more employees we hire, the less overtime and agency will be needed.

We had one complaint visit from the Department of Health, which was unsubstantiated.

Quality Measures are trending down with the exception of long term pain.

Sick callouts increased, use of FMLA and IFMLA slightly decreased. RN turnover remained at 0%, while LPN and CNA turnover increased.

We remain at two stars overall. We have two stars in regulatory compliance, three in staffing and three in quality measures. We are two stars overall because our staffing came down.

B. Bartlett asked how the facility did with the flu. R. Soto stated that we do vaccinations, and our vaccination rate for long term residents is high. Only about 60% of staff opt for the flu shot, even though we offer incentives.

It was asked if we can track CNA turnover to determine how many of those leaving are from the trainee program. R. Soto stated that he monitors the new employee and termination reports, and he sees a lot less people leaving. We would need to collaborate with Human Resources to track that. It was noted that it would be good to monitor this, because we are training the employees.

It was asked if there was progress with the LPN/RN tuition assistance programs. J. Stewart-King replied that there were 97 employees who attended the in-services explaining the programs. We should start seeing applications submitted in August. Staff are excited we brought this program back. B. Bartlett asked if a press release was sent regarding the program. J. Stewart-King stated one was not; B. Bartlett stated she would look in to County Administration releasing something.

J. Stewart-King stated that we received a list of all RNs and LPNs within a 30-mile radius. We will send out postcards announcing open houses – asking prospective employees to come in, see the facility, take a tour, and receive on-the-job interviews. We also learned that Slate Belt Nursing Home and Holy Family are having issues, so we are trying to recruit employees from those facilities.

It was asked if the old smoking room will become an activity room. R. Soto stated that several departments are interested in using the space, but we are hoping to use it as an activity room for residents 55 and under.

It was asked what “clinical denials” refers to on the Customer Flow sheet. J. Stewart-King stated that we clinically cannot handle some referrals. Those with an NG tube or a vent. They require a higher level of care than we can provide.

It was asked what “behaviors” and “suicidal” indicate under lost business from building. J. Stewart-King stated that we screen very aggressive behaviors. If someone is in another nursing home, beating up staff, we cannot accept that individual. We will review the individual on an ongoing basis, and if the behaviors get under control, at that point we will accept the individual. If someone is actively suicidal, we cannot accept. R. Soto stated that we are not a facility to handle suicidal ideations. It was asked where these individuals are sent. J. Stewart-King stated that we get crisis involved, and there are several hospitals with Older Adult Behavioral Units.

Other Business:

B. Werner announced that the Friends of Gracedale Foundation gave \$1500 to the Volunteer Department, which was approved by County Council. We have a web designer working on the website, and we finished a letter that will be sent asking for donations. We are now starting to reach out to local industries like Martin Guitar. We are learning that some organizations like the Lions Club or the Kiwanis Club were unaware that Gracedale accepts residents outside of Nazareth. The foundation can only accept \$25,000 this year due to IRS regulations.

B. Werner stated that we finally broke ground for the generators.

M. Schmoyer asked for an update on the memorial garden under the Arcade. R. Soto stated that Michael Colón spoke with J. Irwin and contacted members of the labor council. They are going to reinforce the brick, move the birdbath down, pull weeds, add flowers, and mulch. They have set July 21, 2018, as their work party date. They are also willing to help maintain the garden each summer. A bench has been ordered, and we are waiting on an estimate for the bronze plaque.

It was asked if there was a timeline for hiring a new Director of Nursing. J. Stewart-King stated there was not.

Next Meeting:

M. Schmoyer reminded Advisory Board members that the next meeting will be held on September 13, 2018, at 4:30 PM.

A motion was made by L. Heffner and seconded by L. Vogel to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 4:59pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennie R. Repsher