

Gracedale Advisory Board
March 10, 2016
Minutes

Members Present: Deborah Jean DeNardo, J.D.; James Irwin; Susan L. Lawrence; MaryAnn McEvoy; Maryann Schmoyer; Kenneth Sun, MD; Ann Terres; Honorable Robert Werner

Members Absent: Reverend David H. DeRemer, Rosemarie Fehr

Public Present: Jack D'Allessandro, Barb Johnson

Staff Present: Cathy Allen, Susan Edwards, Allison Frantz, Craig Gardener, David Holland, Jennie Repsher

Call to Order/Welcome:

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

Approval of February's Minutes:

A motion was made by S. Lawrence and seconded by M. McEvoy to accept the minutes from the February meeting. Motion carried.

Courtesy of the Floor:

By Guests:

It was noted that in County Council meetings, courtesy of the floor should be moved further down in the agenda. At the last meeting, a member of the public tried to ask a question, and was not permitted to do so because courtesy of the floor was closed. A. Frantz stated that when a resolution is presented to County Council, the chair will ask if there are any questions. Ordinances are not provided that provision. J. Irwin stated that this is not a Gracedale Advisory Board issue.

By Committee Members:

It was mentioned that volunteers from the community will be needed to sit on the board for the Friends of Gracedale Foundation. The foundation will run parallel to county council, but does not need County Council funding. It will be funded privately. Gracedale has lost money because there is no foundation for tax-deductible contributions. It was stated that this foundation would be set up to accept charitable contributions. The money will go to the Friends of Gracedale Foundation, not County Council. The director of the board would make sure all donations are tracked; County Council will not touch the money.

It was asked if we definitely do not need County Council approval for the Friends of Gracedale Foundation. It was stated that the foundation would have no bearing on Gracedale being privatized or sold. Currently, Gracedale has no means to accept a large amount of money, if donated. It was asked who would manage the funds. It was stated that the board of directors,

comprised of residents and local philanthropists would manage the funds. It would be separate from the Gracedale Advisory Board.

A big obstacle with creating this foundation will be communication. Gracedale does not have envelopes to accept donations. The website will have to be updated with a “donate” button. At some point, there will have to be a Friends of Gracedale Foundation website, with links to the Gracedale.org website.

It was mentioned that someone from the Gracedale Advisory Board should speak at the volunteer recognition ceremony in April. B. Werner stated he will speak; J. Irwin also agreed to speak.

Advisory Board Chair Report:

J. Irwin stated that this is the second year in a row that the facility had zero deficiencies in the Department of Health annual survey. Both the county and the AFSCME Union did something for all employees, which was a good way to increase morale. B. Werner noted that he ran a letter in both newspapers as a thank you.

Director of Human Services Report:

A. Frantz stated that the four Gracedale Advisory Board reappointments will be presented to County Council next week. Thursday, April 28, is the Outstanding Senior Award program, sponsored by the Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council. Anyone can nominate a volunteer; groups can also be nominated. All nominations must be received before March 24.

Gracedale Administrator’s Report:

D. Holland stated that we had our Department of Health annual survey, and were deficiency free. As a thank you, we provided a meal for everyone in the facility. The AFSCME Union also provided a pizza party for all employees. Both the president and vice president of the union served pizza to employees during the day and J. Irwin served pizza at night. It was a good example of working together.

D. Holland stated that we also had our annual Life Safety inspection, which is the second part of the Department of Health inspection process. It examines fire safety and disaster preparedness. We had 17 deficiencies, which is an average number for a facility of this size and age. We expect them to conduct a return inspection any time after April 1. C. Allen stated that some of the deficiencies were unavoidable because of the age of the building. D. Holland stated that for some of the deficiencies we simply state we have a waiver, and the deficiency is approved. C. Allen noted that we could also be cited three different times for the same issue, since the facility is inspected as three different buildings: the main building is considered two different buildings and the tower building is a third.

The annual Community Health & Wellness Fair is Wednesday, March 30, from 10:30am-3:30pm. It is open to the public, and is a rather large event. It is a great public relations event for the facility and community.

C. Allen questioned the number of callouts on the dashboard. D. Holland stated that the 616 callouts were shifts. This number is down significantly compared to 2015. C. Allen stated that we were averaging 600 callouts a month. D. Holland stated this number was pulled from OnShift.

It was noted that the facility is significantly over the benchmark number for pressure ulcers. S. Edwards stated that this month there were more stage II wounds that healed than in prior months. Sometimes, hospice residents with a number of wounds can skew this statistic. This issue was discussed extensively at our QA meeting. We are putting systems in place to make sure RNs and LPNs communicate with the wound team to properly assess and identify any wounds.

Other Business:

None.

Next Meeting:

J. Irwin reminded Advisory Board members that the next meeting will be held on April 14, 2016, at 4:30 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 4:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennie R. Repsher