

Gracedale Advisory Board
March 9, 2017
Minutes

Members Present: Deborah Jean DeNardo, J.D.; Rosemarie Fehr; James Irwin; Susan L. Lawrence; MaryAnn McEvoy; Maryann Schmoyer; Ann Terres

Members Absent: Kenneth Sun, MD; Honorable Robert Werner

Public Present: Jack D'Allessandro

Staff Present: Susan Edwards, Allison Frantz, Jennie Repsher

Call to Order/Welcome:

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

Approval of January's Minutes:

A motion was made by D. DeNardo and seconded by S. Lawrence to accept the minutes from the January meeting. Motion carried.

Courtesy of the Floor:

By Guests:

None

By Committee Members:

None

Chair Report:

None

Director of Human Services Report:

A. Frantz confirmed that there will definitely be an IGT (intergovernmental transfer) occurring this year. The county has signed an agreement with the state for the IGT. The money must be given to the state by June 7th, and within 21 days we will receive the money back with interest. It was asked if the IGT is an agreement that must be signed every year. A. Frantz stated it must be signed every year because the agreement specifies a dollar amount. It was asked if the dollar amount is the same each year. A. Frantz stated that this year, we are giving a little less than last year and will be receiving back a little less as well. The concept is the same, but the dollar amount is less. Fewer nursing homes are participating this year, and there is less money in the pool. Last year, the state carried dollars that could have been taken off the books. However, this money could not be taken off the books; they had to follow proper accounting procedures. To remove the money, they used those dollars to help fund the IGT last year. This year, those dollars are not available.

Gracedale Administrator's Report:

Census is climbing; today it is at 657. There was a little lull for a couple of months. We would bring in admissions but would be outpaced by the number of deaths. We have been focusing on increasing census.

Our hours per patient day are on budget at 3.2. Nurse Aid hours increased because we had a resident return who needs 1:1 (one on one) care. It was asked if the 1:1 status will continue. S. Edwards stated that yes; we are trying to transfer the resident, but have been unsuccessful.

There was one complaint visit last month from the Department of Health, which was unsubstantiated. We were cleared on the deficiencies from the Annual Survey, but while the Department of Health was here for their resurvey, we were cited on another deficiency. We sent in our plan of correction and it was approved.

Beth Berklite, Director of Nursing, contacted Kendal Outreach, which receives grants money from CMS to offer free trainings in healthcare facilities. We want to decrease the use of antipsychotic medications throughout the facility. Kendal Outreach will initially look at two residents. The goal is to use a team approach with the charge nurse, nurse aide, housekeeper, and therapeutic recreation aide, who will then become champions and go throughout the facility to help train others. We are hoping Kendal Outreach will be here in the next couple of weeks to start this initiative.

Dr. Holumzer is working on a guideline sheet to list the criteria that must be met to order antipsychotic medications. The criteria must be met before the drugs are ordered. It is a whole different way of thinking. We asked Kendal Outreach and the physicians to sit in on our behavior committee.

It was asked if the education provided by Kendal Outreach is free. S. Edwards stated that it is funded with grant money through CMS. We contacted them, and they will help train staff. We are hoping that they can come in a couple days a month, and then once employees are trained, it will be more "train the trainer". Since Kendal Outreach is from the outside, they will see things that we do not see.

There has been an increase in pressure ulcers. We have had new admits with quite a few; one resident was admitted with eight pressure ulcers.

Other Business:

It was mentioned that the Department of Aging is sponsoring the award for volunteers who are over 60 and Northampton County residents. A. Terres stated that she would be in touch with Michael Colon, Volunteer Coordinator. All applications should be submitted by March 24, 2017.

Next Meeting:

J. Irwin reminded Advisory Board members that the next meeting will be held on April 13, 2017, at 4:30 PM.

A motion was made by D. DeNardo and seconded by S. Lawrence to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 4:47 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennie R. Repsher