

Cumberland County Commissioners’ Finance Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 27, 2019 - 1:30 PM
Commissioners Hearing Room
Courthouse, Carlisle PA

Present: Commissioner Vince DiFilippo, Commissioner Jim Hertzler, Commissioner Gary Eichelberger; Sandy Moyle, Chief Clerk; Florence Ford, Deputy Chief Clerk; Dana Best, Finance; Samantha Krepps, Communications; Bob Aims, CNRC; Michelle Rhone, Recording Secretary.

Call to Order: Commissioner DiFilippo called the meeting to order.

Public Comment: None

Topic for Discussion:

- **CNRC Presentation – Bob Aims, Administrator - CNRC - (See Attached)**

Commissioner Eichelberger questioned what the financial model is for CNRC. Bob stated payment for medical parolees would be made by Medicare, or Medical Assistance payment. Bob would like to continue to speak with the representative and the prison system.

Commissioner Eichelberger questioned that essentially they would solicit other counties for their prisoners, and Claremont becomes the central location; Bob stated working with The Pennsylvania Department of Corrections, state prisons. The Department of Corrections is who indicated the tremendous need.

Commissioner Eichelberger questioned if any indications have been made by the Commonwealth that they are seeking a solution, or are planning to find a solution to the problem; Bob stated yes, John Wetzel, Department of Corrections Secretary, speaking of the elderly/aging prison population, and difficulties placing these people, and the inappropriateness of treating in a prison.

Commissioner Eichelberger questioned if this path is followed is it going to vastly increase the percentage of the population as Medicaid based, he questioned Dana what the financial impact would be; Dana stated numbers have not been run for this this, but there needs to be a certain number of either private pay or managed Medicare to offset expenses to make CNRC sustainable.

Commissioner DiFilippo questioned why the State needs to contact “30-40” facilities to find placement for prisoners who need to be placed in a long term care facility. Bob stated nursing homes are not very welcoming to prisoners. Commissioner DiFilippo questioned why it is the State calling nursing homes; Bob stated when they have an individual who is appropriate for long term care, they are much better served in a facility.

Commissioner Hertzler questioned if the suggestions presented would have an adverse impact on the rest of the population in terms of their interest in Claremont. Commissioner Hertzler stated those are issues that

would need to be thoroughly discussed. Bob provided the State does not have a current payment model yet, anticipating the State will continue to work towards that.

Other Business: None

Adjourn: There being no further business to come before the board, Commissioner Eichelberger made a motion to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Rhone
Administrative Assistant

LONG-TERM BUSINESS PLAN FOR CNRC

MARCH 27, 2019

BUSINESS PLAN

- Staffing (as noted in previous CNRC Analysis and Plan) will continue to be a challenge if CNRC would continue at current/budgeted census to support current physical plant
- Long-term care (LTC) in PA through Community Health Choices (CHC) is moving towards more care delivered in the home and out-patient (O/P) setting requiring less institutional care, thus eventually pushing our census and revenue for 'regular' skilled and LTC care down
- Rehabilitation care continues to move towards both shorter stays and more therapy delivered either in the home or in outpatient settings with the resident going directly from inpatient (or increasingly outpatient) surgical centers to home
- Recommend looking at other business lines using our skilled/LTC structure so as to use existing resources, yet benefit from referral sources that will continue with institutional needs
- Two lines of business researched here are aging prisoners/medical parolees and mental health patients

AGING PRISONERS

- Aging prisoners/medical parolees
- 1. 22% of PA prison population is elderly (John Wetzel, Corrections Secretary)
- 2. Prisons are not the most effective location to provide long-term care to prisoners
- 3. Corrections is asking for additional \$15MM in part to treat elderly prisoners (Wetzel)
- 4. We currently have 2 former prisoners from County – caring for successfully following challenging start

MENTAL HEALTH PATIENTS

- Mental health patients
- 1. State hospitals (6) also have a growing population of elderly residents for which need for clinical/long-term care becomes more significant
- 2. As physical condition declined, the mental health/safety needs also decline, making care in LTC setting possible
- 3. Annie Strite, MH/ID, indicates a need for LTC placement for Cumberland and other county residents.

FINANCIAL PLAN

- Federal law prevents incarcerated persons from receiving Medicaid funding
- Department of Corrections (DOC) currently pays for health care for inmates in state facilities
- Connecticut trialing receiving federal funding (Medicare and Medicaid) for inmates in a 95-bed LTC facility
- Same or similar funding stream would be needed here for prisoners still incarcerated; paroled residents eligible for federal funding

MARKETING PLAN

- No other LTCs in PA (other than South Mountain – State facility) with any ‘dedicated’ unit for parolees or State hospital patients
- State prisons need to call ‘30-40’ facilities for placement
- Claremont is caring for 2 parolees currently successfully – no community ‘backlash’ (history would not have been ‘publicized’)

RECOMMENDED CHANGES

- Specialized populations such as above needing LTC services will continue to exist/possibly grow with aging population in general. Therefore offering opportunities to use existing LTC beds as 'typical' skilled and LTC population is moved to home-based care.