

SAMARITAN COMMITTEE

December 7, 2006

9:00 AM

Present: Dan Stoffel, Ralph Hensel, Larry Hoffman, Philip Laubenheimer, Paul Tuchscherer, Ed Somers

Also Present: Kim Nass

Meeting called to order at 9:00 AM.

Paul Tuchscherer moved to approve the minutes of 11/2/06, second by Philip Laubenheimer, motion carried.

Emergency Protective Placement Facility Designation - Resolution - Kim Nass was present to discuss 2006 Resolution 41 designating Samaritan Health Center as Emergency Protective Placement Facility. Samaritan would willingly accept anyone who is a victim of elder abuse or neglect any time of day or night. The scenario would be that police would get a call regarding alleged abuse or neglect, the case would be referred to Emergency Services for triage. After Emergency Services determines that Samaritan is the appropriate setting, the individual would go to the Emergency Room for medical clearance and physician's orders, then the individual would be transferred to Samaritan for admission.

Larry Hoffman moved to recommend 2006 Resolution 41 Designating Samaritan Health Center as Emergency Protective Placement Facility to the county board, second by Philip Laubenheimer, motion carried.

Discussion of 2007 Rate Increase at the Fields - Some private paying tenants at the Fields requested to address the committee to discuss the 2007 rate increase. Mr. Somers gave a brief history of how the assisted living program came to be and how it was started to help serve low-income disabled elderly receiving assistance through the Community Options Program and others seeking admission. Mr. Somers explained how Samaritan is an enterprise fund and contributed \$2.1 Million to the construction of the building and the expectation that the assisted living program repay this money through covering the cost of building depreciation. Mr. Somers distributed a copy of the budget for the Fields and how rates cover operating expenses, depreciation and no more. Further, Mr. Somers discussed the fees charged at other non-profit Residential Care Apartment Complexes, and explained that the average service level at the Fields is Level 2, and comparable facilities on average charge \$1,271/month more for a studio and \$1265/month more for a 1-bedroom. Fred Westphal asked why the committee did not consider a loan instead of increasing rates. Dan Stoffel explained that the Fields would be even farther behind borrowing money for operations. Joe Bauman asked why rates weren't increased prior to opening in June and that the committee does something to soften the increase.

The committee expressed their empathy, however private sector providers were forced to pass along many of the same costs as the Fields. The Fields budget was prepared following the same timeline as every other county department. Mr. Somers explained that after the 2006 rates were finalized in November 2005 for the Fields, people began to give deposits based on the approved budget. Mr. Somers believes that had the committee increased rates in June, outside the usual budget cycle, there would have been a different set of tenants concerned that they were duped.

Paul Tuchscherer moved to allow any tenant choosing to explore other housing options to elect to have his/her rate frozen at the 2006 level until April 1, 2007. Tenants choosing to take advantage of this offer need to contact Jessica Trapp, Housing Manager by December 31, 2006. Section 7 (b) of the Residency and Service Agreement requiring 30 days prior written notice of agreement termination would still apply during the 3 month rate freeze period. Tenants that notified Ms. Trapp of their intent to explore other options, but are still residing at the Fields on April 1, 2007 will have the 2007 rate increase implemented retroactively to January 1, 2007, second by Philip Laubenheimer, motion carried.

Reports from Administrator

Union Negotiations - Mediation for Union Negotiations is scheduled for 12/18/06.

Morgue - The morgue is on pace to be completed on time.

Year-End - Samaritan will likely finish 2006 needing to utilize retained earnings to cover costs associated with opening the Fields and subsidizing the start up.

Donna Spaeth Letter - All county board members received a letter from Donna Spaeth regarding the need to upgrade the Samaritan facilities. Mr. Somers contacted Ms. Spaeth to tell her that the remodeling discussion was postponed until January.

Family Care Committee - Mr. Stoffel and Mr. Somers, along with representation from the Department of Social Services, the Comprehensive Community Services Agency, and the Office on Aging are members of the Family Care Steering Committee for the County. The first meeting is set for 12/19/06.

Philip Laubenheimer moved to adjourn at 10:18 AM, second by Larry Hoffman, motion carried.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 4, 2006 at 9:00 AM.

Dan Stoffel, Chairperson

Larry Hoffman, Secretary

Edward Somers, Administrator