

## Health board briefed on home health finances



Written by Mandy Hochstedler

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County board of health members were presented with a detailed look at the financial picture for the Logan County Health District's home health program at Wednesday afternoon's meeting.

LCHD Administrator Lisa Downing said the agency asked Tuhin Sen, CPA, of Sen & Associates to review its 2008 figures for home health, as the program posted a loss last year.

"At least on paper we lost money (on home health) last year," Ms. Downing said. "When outstanding collections come in, we should make up for that loss."

Administrators noted two factors that may have contributed to the delayed collections: home health switched its computer software used for billing in 2008. Also, new staff members were responsible for billing as a result of staff turnover.

Mr. Sen provided several ways that home health could increase the funds it receives through Medicare.

"We need to bill for medical supplies," he said. "Although \$14 for medical supplies is built in for each visit, with certain patients, such as those requiring wound care, we can receive additional funds."

The accountant also noted that staff members could improve how they answer the patient information questionnaire OASIS, which determines the severity of a person's illness, and therefore, the amount of funding received for that person through Medicare.

Health Commissioner Dr. Boyd Hoddinott was extended a one-year renewal contract following a 10-minute executive session. His salary remains at \$52,000 per year.

Members approved the creation of a full-time home health physical therapist position. Jennifer Wren, home health supervisor, said the position is currently contracted out to Bellefontaine Physical Therapy, but the health district would save money and be able to better align the way staff members answer the OASIS questionnaire by having the position in-house.

The board approved an annual evaluation for Tara Dennis, home health nurse, and also accepted her resignation. Former LCHD infectious disease and WIC nurse Rebecca Simmons, who was laid off at the beginning of the year, was approved to fill the position.

Related to environmental health, members authorized the health commissioner to contract with a reputable company to demolish a condemned house at 6725 Lima St., Huntsville, as property owner Robert Allen of Grove City has failed to appear before the board. The project needs to be completed at no cost to the agency, as funds are no longer available for nuisance abatement following the failure of a series of LCHD operating levies.

"We don't have the money to do this anymore," Dr. Hoddinott said. "If the contract cannot be obtained, the house will stand."

In other action, the board:

- approved annual evaluations for John Clary, plumbing inspector, and Cheryl Burch, vital statistics registrar and environmental health clerical employee;
- granted a 45-day wage continuation to Nursing Director Cindy Irick, who was injured on the job;
- approved the payment of a \$87.50 per month retainer fee to the human resources management firm Clemans-Nelson;
- approved increases in the fees: meningitis immunization, \$110; and tuberculosis test, \$20;
- approved a variance request from Nicholas Zuk, 10511 Buckeye Drive, Huntsville, to construct a well six inches from the driveway, three feet from the property line and 21 feet from the road; and
- ordered Isabelle Pusey to remove all solid waste, including mattresses and a water heater, from her property at 9893 Maplewood Drive, Orchard Island, Lakeview, within three days.

The next regular meeting was rescheduled to 1 p.m. Wednesday, April 8, at the health district, 310 S. Main St.

#### **Food service establishments cited**

The following food service operations or retail food establishments were issued notices by the Logan County Health District for either not renewing their licenses by March 1 or for not paying the fee for late renewal. The sites must comply by March 9 to avoid legal action for operating without a license:

- 151 Club, 212 S Main St.;
- Route 68 Grill, 1141 S. Main St.;
- Billy's World Famous Cranberry Resort, 9667 State Route 368, Huntsville;
- Calvary Christian School, 1140 Rush Ave.;
- Campbell House, 356 Kent Drive;
- Carter Street Warehouse, 305 Carter Ave.;
- Cornerstone Pizza & Gas, 115 N. Main St., West Mansfield;
- Day's Inn, 1134 N. Main St.;
- Eagles 2166, 213 W. Chillicothe Ave.;
- Elks Lodge 2797, 156 E. Main St., Russells Point;
- Firehouse Pizza, 2793 Sandusky St., Zanesfield;
- House of Szechwan, 137 W. Columbus Ave.;
- Huntsville Marastop, 6990 Lima St., Huntsville;
- Indian Lake Rollarena, 330 Taylor Ave., Russells Point;
- Jac-n-Do's Pizza, 302 W. Main St., Russells Point;
- LaPizzeria, 7439 State Route 366, Huntsville;
- Lakeview Party Store, 12500 N. State Route 235, Lakeview;
- Logan County Friendly Senior Center, 934 S Main St.;
- Main Street Tavern, 103 W. Main St., Belle Center;
- Majors Beer Docks, 15641 N. State Route 235, Lakeview;
- Marathon 1504, 1504 S. Main St.;
- Marie's Homemade Candies, 311 Zanesfield Road, West Liberty;
- Padrone's Pizza, 101 S. Elizabeth St., Belle Center;
- S G Oil, 8758 Township Road 239, Lakeview;
- T-P Bowling Lanes, 300 E. Lake Ave.;
- Taco Bell, 2079 S. Main St.;
- The Hungry Farmer, 116 S. Main St., West Mansfield;
- Thirsty Turtle, 7838 State Route 366, Russells Point; and
- We're Rolling Pretzels, 2281 S. Main St.

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Contact e-mail: [mhochstedler@examiner.org](mailto:mhochstedler@examiner.org)