

Alaska Pioneer Home Advisory Board
June 28, 2016 9:00 am
Teleconference

Members:

- X Pamela Beale (Veterans Advisory Council Designee)
- X Lee Cromwell (Public/Restricted/Veterans Representative until 6/30)
- X Rosemary Hagevig (Public)
- X Hollis Hall (Public)
- X Bert Hall (Public)
- X Banarsi Lal (Public until 6/30)
- X Mary Shields (Alaska Commission on Aging Designee until 6/30)
- X Robert Sivertsen (Public)

Upcoming Members:

- Jana Shockman (Public replacing Banarsi)
- X Ron Siebels (Public/Restricted/Veterans Representative replacing Lee)
- X David Blacketer (Alaska Commission on Aging Designee replacing Mary)

Division Staff:

- X Vickie Wilson (Division Director)
- X Julie Sande (KPH Administrator) Signed off at 9:03am
- X Jessica Bogard (AOM)

- 1) Called to order at 9:00am
- 2) Discussion and approval of agenda
 - a. Mary, move approval
 - b. Lee, seconded
 - c. All, aye
- 3) Declaration and verification of any conflicts of interest
 - a. Bob, hearing none.
- 4) Approval of minutes
 - a. Bob, ACoA was last meeting and there isn't much detail within the minutes of that meeting. Vickie did report at that meeting regarding privatization. February minutes were previously reviewed and that meeting was pre-planning for our trip to Juneau.
 - b. Bert, we had a meeting on April 5th. I kept notes and there wasn't much we discussed so I wouldn't worry about it.
- 5) Discuss report to Governor
 - a. Review of draft
 - b. Bob, we need the reports from the individual visits so that we can include them along with the cover letter. Discussion?
 - c. Hollis, 5th paragraph down, 3rd sentence suggest "unsure how future reductions and layoff will impact them, some employees have been prompted to seek other employment opportunities."
 - i. Vickie, have you been told that employees were truly prompted?
 - ii. Bob, believes that the Legislative statements have led to this and that is what prompted.

iii. Rosemary, would opted work?

iv. Pam, likes opted.

d. Hollis, 6th paragraph, the 1st sentence is not an actual sentence, rework.

e. Hollis, 3rd sentence, “some seniors who could pay the fee may lose faith that the service will exist when they need it.”

6) Reports

a) Division Director’s Report

i. Request for feasibility of privatization for the Pioneer Home Pharmacy is being reviewed by the department efforts. Vickie’s concern is that if we lose the centralized pharmacy we will lose the medication oversight which we’ve gained by having our medications come from one location. Vickie believes in our system and thus doesn’t think that any contractor would conclude that going out for contractors would be a better alternative. Vickie has brought forward to the department that perhaps we could combine the DHSS or all SOA pharmacies as a cost savings.

ii. Rate increase of 1.5% approved by the Commissioner and so now we must go through the regulation update process. We hope to have the rate increase implemented within FY 2017 as a response to pressures asking Pioneer Home to reduce our general fund request to the Legislature. This is our way of showing that we are taking the budget very seriously and are trying to do our part.

iii. We are reducing staff as proposed in the FY2017 budget. All of our employees within deleted PCNs for FY2017 have been placed in other positions except for one, who may have to seek employment in the private sector but will retain layoff rights.

iv. The \$100 fee is not one that Vickie supports. Law is reviewing the language and looking at whether or not we can ask for such a fee. We will not, at this point, be going forward with a \$100 fee for the waitlist annual fee. Looking into a one-time processing fee that would be non-refundable. To the board, what would you consider a reasonable amount for a fee?

1. Rosemary, at least 50% of the people Rosemary knows, who are within her circle of friends, don’t receive their annual renewal letter. Before any fee gets institutionalized the list should be reviewed.
2. Vickie, we are in the process of reviewing our database. We should be back up to date in the process of sending the letters after an employee, before her time, was not effective. The database depends on IT’s available support.
3. Bob, if you are planning to go into a Pioneer Home it is a long process. It’s a couple of years. A \$100 entry/sign-up fee would be manageable, however, if you back away from the entire concept it’ll put this back in the Legislature’s hand. We need to be cognizant that they are asking us to run a business model.
4. Jessica, we were given the GF/program receipts to collect the proposed fees and then we were given back the GF that was switched out previously. For FY2017 we have the receipt authority to collect the fees but not the regulatory authority to charge a fee.

5. Hollis, this session was so odd. We need to work out our next steps.

7) Discuss report to Governor continued

A. Bob, should we change the fee discussion?

i. Rosemary, if we include it, it'll allow us to put a positive spin on the fee discussion.

ii. Mary, sent out an updated draft of letter for everyone to see. Jessica, could you, please, look at the draft I sent when adding the paragraph about adding a fee?

iii. Jessica, yes, will do.

B. Hollis, the letter doesn't include that the Board doesn't support a drop in service in response to Legislative action.

i. Bob, when we lose funding the number served drops but we keep the services offered.

ii. Vickie, as we have reduced beds we lose our revenue earning potential. Mary and Jessica could work on the language on that.

1. Bob, during a budget situation how do you reduce bed counts?

2. Vickie, by attrition we then leave the beds vacant.

3. Rosemary, at what point do you reach a point of diminishing return?

a. Vickie, we have come to a point when we start discussing closing a home.

b. Jessica, revenue discussion.

4. Bob, believes that we should look into Indian Health grants for residents who are beneficiaries.

a. Vickie, hasn't found such a program, yet.

b. Jessica, we haven't found one but we will keep looking. When SEARHC responded they still wanted to make a profit if they took over operations. That is a change in Pioneer Home

i.

b) Veterans Representative's Report

i. Pam, no report at this time but will have one ready for next month.

ii. Vickie, primary care coverage at AVPH is going to be done through a contract with the VA instead of through our Nurse Practitioner.

iii. Bob, thank you to Joe Fields who served as the Veteran's Representative. He received the Distinguished Service Award for 5 years of service.

c) Policies and Procedures

i. Bert, looked at the list of 12 suggestions from last year. Would like a summary regarding collections authorities and additional revenue opportunities? Jessica could create this.

d) ACoA Report

i. Mary, David (new ACoA representative) is online. Older Americans Act was renewed by the President. The renewal of the Commission on Aging has been signed by the Governor and thank you letters have been sent. Moneys for SHIP have been totally deleted from the Federal budget and letters have been sent as these funds are for transportation and nutrition programs. Has sent letters to our Federal representation and has asked that they support Alaskan seniors who rely on this program. Will still be on the Commission on Aging board and thank you to Pioneer Home Advisory Board as she has learned from all on this board. We were asked to put forward a representative from Alaska and Arlis was put forward and accepted.

1. Bob, thank you for all that you have done and for helping to coordinate between the boards.

8) Board Chairman

A. Bob, this job is made easier by the advocacy of our members in their own communities. Lee, you have been an advocate and keep us on track. Thank you for your support while you were in this position. Mary, you've done a great job for seniors in Alaska and disability issues in this state. Thank you. Joe, who isn't online but I spoke to him, has done wonderful service and I thanked him for his advocacy.

9) New Business

A. Bob, as there is no signed budget, please, watch with a guarded eye. The Governor has until July 1 to figure something out. Next special session starts on July 11th but I don't know if it is going to be in Anchorage or Juneau. Encourage you all to watch closely and contact your Legislative members if you have concerns.

10) Board member comments or future agenda items

A. Bob, please, send Jessica your comments for the letter and she'll work on things.

B. Bert, welcome to the new members. Worked with Pam previously and look forward to working with her here. Would like to ask that we encourage the Governor's office to recruit a Sitka based representative for the Veterans seat.

C. Banarsi, it's my last meeting and thank you to the Chair and to all the members for their support and advocacy. Lee was vice-chair with me and thank you to him for the courtesies he offered all board members when we were in Anchorage and to your wife for hosting us when we were in the area. Wish Lee and all board members all the best and encourage them to continue to look after the Pioneer Homes. Thank you to Mary for the support she's given me and for welcoming him at the Commission on Aging. May be off the board but will continue to be an

advocate for senior issues, not only in my community but in the state of Alaska. Please, keep me updated. God bless you all.

i. All, thank you, Banarsi!

ii. Bob, I was remiss earlier. I'm sorry, you weren't on my list. Banarsi was a wonderful source of information when I started and when you walk with him through the halls, just as with Rosemary, he is well known and well received.

D. Rosemary, could we prepare a report with Lee and Jessica regarding contracting out food service and janitorial like we do in Juneau?

i. Bob, we can be proactive.

ii. Rosemary, could we do an analysis of the cost savings, Lee?

iii. Lee, we could set up a meeting with Jessica and the NMS VP.

a. Jessica, we can't have that meeting. We have procurement rules and the savings is within the RFLOI that we received from NMS. This plan would require a layoff of over 100 staff to enact. For union purposes we'd have to have a 3rd party feasibility study, negotiate with the union, and then put out for bid the request for this new body of work. We cannot do a single source with NMS.

b. Rosemary, laying off of 100 staff is better than laying off the whole system.

E. Lee, thank you all. My goodbye speech is going to sound the same as Banarsi's. I will see you all on the Veterans and Senior advocacy trail.

F. Pam, could I get a copy of the year's previous minutes?

i. Bob, Jessica could you send those to Pam?

ii. Jessica, will do.

G. Pam, When is our next meeting?

i. Jessica, can we plan on July 26th at 9am?

ii. Bob, yes, that will be good.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15am