



*The Nathaniel Witherell*  
TOWN OF GREENWICH  
CONNECTICUT

**Board of Directors Meeting  
Minutes  
May 19, 2008**

**Present:** David Ormsby, Chairman; Chris Thurlow, Vice Chairman; David Ayres; Lloyd Bankson; Patricia Burns; Bruce Dixon; Frank Scarpa; Paul Toretta

**Staff:** William Kowalewski, Executive Director; Raymond Augustine, Director of Financial Operations; Lynn Bausch, Director of Nursing; Susan Welsh, Director of Admissions; Franklin Loria, MD, Medical Director; Charity Poth, Development Director FNW

**Also:** Gerald Isaacson, RTM Health and Human Services Committee; Christopher vonKeyserling, RTM District 8

Mr. Ormsby opened the meeting 5:32 pm in TNW Board Room.

**REVIEW OF THE MINUTES OF THE 4/28/08 BOARD MEETING:**

The motion to approve these minutes was made, seconded and adopted unanimously.

**Finance Committee Report – presented by Lloyd Bankson**

Mr. Bankson reiterates March 2008 Financials (April 2008 financials have not been finalized at this time; May meeting is being held early due to Memorial Day Holiday).

Operating profit of \$81K last month (March 2008); YTD Operating Loss at March 2008 of approximately \$83K

## **Finance Committee Report (cont'd)**

Indications and calculations at this time from Mr. Ray Augustine are that April 2008 will be profitable, even with a slight decline in resident days.

Susan Welsh states that TNW census numbers will be low for April and May 2008.

Mr. Bankson is cautiously optimistic that a profit will be shown at end of quarter, June 30, 2008

Mr. Bankson gives some history with regard to the appropriation request being presented to the BET this evening. It is due in part to collective bargaining negotiations that concluded 7 months after the budget was submitted, billing errors by Witherell's lab vendor, and some underestimated salaries in the 07/08 Budget. Also, some items relating to the calculation of per patient cost for Managed Care needed further clarification.

Mr. Ormsby states that the operating results for the 1<sup>st</sup> 10 months of this year have been extraordinary.

## **Chairman's Report – presented by David Ormsby, Chairman**

Because The Witherell Invitational has been postponed to July 28, 2008, Mr. Ormsby suggests moving the July Board of Directors Meeting scheduled for that same date to Sunday, July 27, 2008, at 5:30 pm. Board agrees to reschedule meeting to that date.

A motion is made by Mr. Ormsby to approve the additional appropriation request for TNW being presented to the BET this same night. The motion is seconded and adopted unanimously.

Mr. Ormsby outlines events/meetings taking place on Tuesday, May 20, 2008:

1. Mr. Ormsby, Ms. Thurlow and Mary Bruce will meet with Tim Lewis of "Down Town Music" to discuss funding options/possibilities.
2. Mr. Ormsby, Mr. Augustine and Mr. Kowalewski will meet with Mr. Bob Stone, BET, at Mr. Stone's request.
3. Volunteer Luncheon at 12:00 noon
4. Rehab Open House from 2:00 – 4:00 pm – Ms. Welsh notes that TNW new advertisement will be rolled out at the Open House. All attendees will be receiving canvas tote bags and t-shirts.

Mr. Ormsby calls attention to the article submitted by Bill Kowalewski, "A Day in the Life of a Nursing Home Administrator" and the observations it makes about the current functions and responsibilities of the administrator.

## **Chairman's Report (cont'd)**

Questions with regard to Rehab services that were addressed to Mr. Ormsby by a family member initiate a discussion relating to same:

- Dr. Loria states that there are cases when patients are too ill for therapy when they arrive at TNW.
- There is the necessity to adhere to Medicare guidelines - patients may not "qualify" for therapy.
- Mr. Kowalewski suggests having AiLinh Tu, Rehabilitation Director, as the department presentation for the June 30, 2008 Board meeting, to review several Rehab items: to give an overview of Medicare Rehab eligibility; to explain how/why patients are either picked up by rehab and receiving therapy in rehab area or receiving therapy by medical staff on the floor.
- Mr. Kowalewski explains that there are items that "trigger" Med A and Med B coverage for a chronic care patient who may at any time be put on a program based on these triggers; also, floor therapy, on-going maintenance rehab.
- Dr. Loria states that the use of outside therapists is very rare; but, they can be granted temporary privileges

## **Medical Director's Report – presented by Franklin Loria, MD**

Dr. Loria states that there have been no changes to the Medical Staff since last report. He has been approached by a specialist in hematology/oncology about possibly providing service to TNW residents.

Dr. Loria has observed that more "medical " patients are being admitted recently (sicker patients). Discussion is whether or not it is felt patients are being released too soon from the hospitals.

Dr. Loria asks Susan Welsh about TNW relationship with Stamford Hospital. Ms. Welsh explained that relationship. She also stressed the necessity to avoid admitting those with severe infections to our 4<sup>th</sup> floor unit (Rehab) where we have residents recovering from surgeries.

National Nursing Day - meals were served to each Nursing shift on Thursday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, and Nurses were given gifts of movie tickets as a small token of our appreciation for all that they do. Dr. Loria gives accolades to all nurses and the amazing job they perform.

In-service training continues on prevention, treatment and containment of resistant organisms.

Dr. Loria notes that antipsychotic drug use statistics, presently at 34%, appear to be clinically indicated and well defined in Bill Kowalewski's Executive Director's Report this month.

## **Resident Life Committee Report – presented by Christopher Ann Thurlow**

Residents enjoyed several trips this month: a luncheon on May 8th at Christ Church, and two Healing Masses and Luncheons – on the 13th at St. Catherine's Church and on the 14<sup>th</sup> at St. Mary Church.

The Roots Theater Group performed on Thursday, May 8<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm in TNW Auditorium.

May 10<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 – 4:00 The Spring Tea was held to honor all of our resident "mothers". Thanks especially to Mary Bruce, Recreation, and Jeffrey Enchura, Dining Services for providing such a beautiful event.

National Nursing Home Week, May 12<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> was celebrated with the showing of the movie "Grease", "Marry Me Bill Bingo", a sock hop with an appearance by Elvis himself, and John Lowe's Big Band Sounds.

Several residents will enjoy an afternoon of sunshine and pizza at the Greenwich Boat and Yacht Club on May 29<sup>th</sup>.

Bill's Backyard Bar-B-Q's will be held every Tuesday throughout the summer beginning June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

June 14<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 – 3:00 pm the Annual Family and Resident Picnic. Ms. Thurlow stresses how important she feels it is for all Board members to attend the picnic.

## **Executive Director's Report – presented by William Kowalewski**

Mr. Kowalewski states that at its April 17, 2008 meeting the Continued Quality Improvement Committee reviewed TNW status in the areas of Psychotropic Drug Utilization. The committee will initiate an audit this quarter to address the appropriateness of antipsychotic drug usage.

Ms. Lynn Bausch, Director of Nursing, comments that the medical team would like to see behavior problems treated with more Recreation Therapy and other programs that result in the use of fewer drugs.

Mr. Kowalewski states that the Person-Centered Dining equipment has been installed and the "go live" date is moved to June 16<sup>th</sup>. Delay in starting is due to the late arrival of special carts ordered and also due to the necessary completion of employee training.

## **Executive Director's Report (cont'd)**

Mr. Ormsby asks Mr. Kowalewski how many "rounds" of our facility he makes each day. Mr. Kowalewski responds with no less than 1 and no more than 3 per day. Mr. Kowalewski states that he also makes a point to observe morning care, the evening shift, and at least one major recreation event per week in addition to rounds

## **Building Committee Report – presented by Paul Toretta**

### TOG Building Committee

There will be a telephone meeting tomorrow, Tuesday, May 20, 2008, with the attorney hired to discuss the Construction Manager's contract.

### TNW Building Committee

- Mr. Jack Hornak, Director of Facility Operations, has ordered 5 air conditioning units to replace units as they become in disrepair.
- The hot water problem has been solved.
- Sewer Grinder Project – Amy Seifert has agreed that TNW should provide access to the sewer and the Town of Greenwich will flush the system twice a year. This decision needs to be documented and training in the proper disposal of items should be addressed through employee General Orientation.

## **Friends of The Nathaniel Witherell– presented by Patricia Burns**

The postponement of The Witherell Invitational to July 28<sup>th</sup> may prove to be a positive thing: more golfers and more underwriting may be obtained.

Ms. Burns hand-delivered the 5 CDBG Grant applications to the Office of Community Development: 1) Indoor/Outdoor Garden for Dementia Residents, 2) Employee Computer Stations, 3) Rose Garden Project, 4) Customer Service Training, and 5) Nursing and Recreation Training for Enhanced Dementia Programming.

FNW Board Meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 16, 2008, in TNW Board Room.

Mr. Ormsby asked if there needed to be any further discussion on old or new business – none noted.

Mr. Ormsby adjourned the meeting at 7:08 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

William Kowalewski  
Acting Secretary