



The Nathaniel Witherell
TOWN OF GREENWICH
CONNECTICUT

**Board of Directors Meeting
Minutes
June 29, 2009**

Present: David Ormsby, Chairman; Christopher Ann Thurlow, Vice Chairman; Thomas Saccardi, Secretary; David Ayres; Lloyd Bankson (via telephone); Bruce Dixon; Dr. Frank Scarpa; Paul Toretta, Lin Lavery

Staff: Lynn Bausch, Deputy and Director of Nursing; Ray Augustine, Director of Financial Operations; Linda Marini, Administrative Assistant; Scott Neff, Development Director FNW; Frank Walsh, MD, Medical Director; Sally Van Leeuwen, Volunteer Coordinator; Susan Welsh, Director of Admissions

Also: Peter A. Arturi, Board of Health; Gerald Isaacson, RTM; Joyce Jordan, Family Council; Karen LaMonica, Commission on Aging; Leslie Tarkington, BET; Kerry A. Weber, Greenwich Post

Mr. Ormsby opened the meeting at 5:35 PM in TNW Board Room.

Mr. Ormsby requests the motion to amend tonight's Agenda by adding Item # 7, Executive Session, Personnel Matter. The motion to amend the Agenda was made, seconded and adopted unanimously.

REVIEW OF THE MINUTES OF THE 5/26/09 BOARD MEETING

The motion to approve the minutes of this meeting was made, seconded and adopted unanimously.

Chairman Report – presented by David Ormsby

Mr. Ormsby's Letter to the Editor was included in this month's Board packet. Printed in the Greenwich Time as an Op Ed piece, Mr. Ormsby expressed why he felt Governor Rell's proposal to reduce Medicaid rates and then freeze them at the reduced level for 2 years would be a tragedy. Mr. Ormsby first sent a very

similar letter to each of our 4 representatives: Senator Frantz; Fred Camillo; Lyle Gibbons; Livy Floren.

At the June 8th RTM meeting TNW was on the Agenda for 2 items: 1.) to approve the revised expenditures incurred as a result of the increase in short-term rehab revenues, and 2.) to approve TNW Revolving Fund Status.

The 1st item was approved by the RTM with a vote of 187 to 3 with 2 abstentions. The 2nd item was approved by the RTM with a vote of 186 to 2.

Mr. Ormsby feels it was a tremendous showing of support for Nathaniel Witherell and its staff by the RTM.

The Executive Director Search Committee has interviewed 9 applicants at length. Three of those candidates were invited back to meet with senior staff and representatives of the Family Council. Further discussion will take place during Executive Session of this meeting.

From June 7 through June 13, Channel 79 GCTV ran the taped 30 minute program hosted by Jim Thompson. Ms. Thurlow, Ms. Welsh, Ms. Bausch and Mr. Ormsby participated in this informative session about Nathaniel Witherell. DVD's will be available shortly.

Mr. Ormsby and Ms. Lynn Bausch met with representatives of the Family Council regarding several issues they wanted to express. These issues are currently being reviewed and addressed as appropriate.

Medical Director's Report – presented by Frank Walsh, MD

TNW has had no residents with the flu. Three staff members were determined to have the flu.

Dr. Walsh has reinstated an old policy to have a general surgeon come to TNW, to see 4-5 residents or more during one visit, who are in need of sutures, wound debridement, or minor surgical procedures. Not only will this prove to be extremely convenient to our residents, it will save expenses by eliminating ambulance service for transportation of these patients to and from a doctor's office. Our clinic is equipped with an examining room with a medical examining table and minor surgical equipment to accommodate this service. Some services will also be able to be done bedside.

There is a very slight drop in the census on the Rehab unit. Dr. Walsh attributes this to several things: people choose to do less elective surgeries during summer months; some facilities that normally admit only acute cases are now also accepting sub-acute cases because of the generally poor economy. TNW is now having to compete not only with other nursing homes, but also with acute care facilities. Ms. Welsh reviews data she received as recently as today with regard to admissions practices, trends, etc. involving other nursing and rehab facilities.

Mr. Bankson comments that TNW has had 334 Admissions this year, which is up 27% from last year, and which represents nearly 30 people coming through Admissions every month. These are incredible results for TNW.

Executive Director's Report - presented by Lynn A. Bausch, Deputy and Director of Nursing

Ms. Bausch addresses the CANPFA Postcard Campaign urging the public to say "no" to proposed cuts to Nursing Home residents' funding. We have participated in this campaign by providing information in the lobby and postcards that we will forward to Rep. Fred Camillo and Senator Scott Frantz.

Ms. Bausch thanks everyone who helped with the picnic. This year's Resident and Family Picnic was a huge success. Attendees included Senator Scott Frantz, Congressman Jim Himes and Bob DeAngelo, Executive Director of the Boys and Girls Club of Greenwich, Board members, the First Selectman, Representatives of both the BET and RTM. Ms. Bausch expressed her extreme gratitude to all staff and volunteers who were responsible for the big success of the event.

Person-Centered Care initiatives update:

- The internal beeper system is progressing. This system will cut down on internal/overhead paging by approximately 90%. Full implementation of this system (obtaining beepers, internal wiring, staff training) will take between 3 and 6 months
- Dignity Napkins will be taking the place of patient "bibs".
- TNW has 16 staff members retiring, effective June 30, 2009. Collectively they represent 384 years of combined service to Nathaniel Witherell. There will be a Retirement Ceremony here at TNW on Thursday, July 9, 2009, 2:30 PM in the Chapel.
- The STAR website Quality Indicator data from the 4th Quarter of 2008 was included in the Board packet. TNW's numbers continue to be very strong
- Two of our volunteers were recognized at the 2009 Volunteer Day Awards : Stephanie Keis was awarded Volunteer of the Year and Stephanie Stearn was selected as Outstanding Youth Volunteer
- DVD's from the Channel 79 GCTV program with TNW and Jim Thompson will be available this Wednesday
- Implementation of brighter lighting is complete on the Dementia Unit. Due to its success, we are moving forward to the rest of the units.
- Mr. Saccardi asks if TNW implements any of the Rehab programming outlined in the handout included with the Board materials this month. TNW currently does not, but Ms. Bausch believes the technological side should definitely be investigated.

- Ms. Bausch thanks the senior team for their concerted efforts (especially since February) in minimizing expenses and keeping their budgets in line. Mr. Bankson congratulates Ms. Bausch on her leadership with the departments, stating that much of the success seen, especially on the expense side, is to her credit.

Ms. Ormsby would like to have copies of his Letter to the Greenwich Time, which was published as an Op Ed piece, available to the public. Accordingly, we will have copies available in the TNW lobby, and it will also be printed in this month's Witherell Times.

Building Committee Report – presented by Paul Toretta

TNW Building Committee:

- Ms. Thurlow would like to thank the volunteers and Mr. Tommy Reale for all of their efforts in the set up of the planters lining the front walk.
- Mr. Bankson wants to confirm that all necessary maintenance issues are being taken care of.

TOG Building Committee:

- The next meeting with S/L/A/M is scheduled for Tuesday, July 7, 2009
- The committee has reviewed all 4 Construction Manager candidates and hopes to have a final choice in the next couple weeks.

Finance Committee Report – presented by Lloyd Bankson

- Operating Gain for May 2009 is \$108,062, favorable to Budget by \$97,075.
- Operating Gain YTD 2009 is \$21,584, favorable to Budget by \$189,159
- TNW Revenues YTD are \$711,501 ahead of Budget – Admissions department has done a great job in mix of Private Pay, Commercial Insurance, Medicare. For the month of May, Revenue from Medicaid is down to 41.3%.
- Salary and Expenses are slightly over Budget for the month of May but have shown a great turnaround YTD.

Mr. Augustine comments that with the requests for an additional \$304K and also \$96K in variable cost, it was thought we would be between \$500K and \$650K favorable in revenues. Mr. Augustine states through July 11, 2009 the amount will be close to the \$650K amount.

Mr. Augustine anticipates that the Operating Gain, which YTD is currently at \$21,584, will be at break-even at year end, even though census is down. Department expenditures have been coming in favorably.

Mr. Bankson gives full credit for the approval of the Revolving Fund to Mr. Augustine through all of his hard work and attention to detail. Mr. Augustine extends the credit to the whole team.

Mr. Toretta questions the overage in Supply Expense. Mr. Augustine explains that the overage includes variable costs associated with increased rehabilitation services.

Mr. Augustine confirms, in response to Mr. Toretta's question about CIP, that the entire \$288K of CIP is going to be spent. All projects are moving forward.

TNW is the payee for approximately 57 Social Security and Supplemental Security Income Beneficiaries. The Social Security Administration performed an audit at TNW this month. Mr. Ormsby comments that Mr. Augustine received a "glowing" report back from the Social Security office, which includes findings such as that TNW has an accurate and up-to-date record-keeping system; conserved funds for SSI clients are watched closely to ensure both state and federal resource thresholds are not exceeded; etc.

Resident's Life Committee – presented by Christopher Ann Thurlow

- Over 600 residents, family and friends were in attendance for the June Annual Picnic. More children were in attendance this year. It is noteworthy that representatives of many levels of government were present
- TNW is privileged to have 2 summer interns in Pastoral Care under the direction of Rev. Heather Parkinson-Webb and 1 working with the Recreation Department on the Demenia unit.
- Tomorrow, 6/30, there will be a slideshow of Jamie Mulberger's trip to Israel
- Many residents are participating in Tai Chi, an ancient Chinese art form, which has been shown to slow the heart, lower blood pressure, elevate feelings of good will and enhance balance
- Ms. Thurlow reminds everyone that work continues on Luci Nevin's Witherell Revue being scheduled for late September. It will not interfere with FNW golf outing.
- Summer Bar-b-ques have begun on Wednesday afternoons
- The next Family Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday evening, July 21st at 6:30 PM in the Auditorium. Topic will be Palliative Care.
- Ms. Thurlow is still receiving plant donations for the Friendship Garden.

Friends of Nathaniel Witherell – presented by Christopher Ann Thurlow

The second annual golf outing is scheduled for September 21, 2009. Currently have 40 confirmed golfers. Several mailings have been sent to inform the

Greenwich community, RP's, TOG directors and managers of the event and the sponsorship options. Ms. Thurlow urges the Board to forward any contact lists that they may have to Mr. Neff to include in the distribution of golf information.

Morrison Dining Contract Renewal – David Ormsby

According to contract, currently Morrison provides Witherell with 3 management personnel and 2 dieticians. Mr. Ormsby would like to increase the length of their contract agreement from 1 to 2 years.

A motion to increase the Morrison Dining Contract to a 2-year term was made, seconded and adopted unanimously.

New Business

Ms. Thurlow makes the suggestion that Board members inform either Linda Marini or Lynn Bausch of their presence and purpose in the building when they are at Witherell for an extended period of time. It is also suggested that name badges be worn.

Ms. Lavery asks if there is any way to cut back on the amount of paper being included with Board packets. Mr. Ormsby and Ms. Bausch will decide on what could be eliminated from the mailings.

Ms. Thurlow reports that former TNW Board Member, Patricia Burns, received a Volunteer of the Year Award for the Town of Greenwich. Ms. Thurlow extends the Boards congratulations to her.

Ms. Van Leeuwen, Volunteer Coordinator, reports that the Healing Touch program has just begun. TNW currently has 2 trained volunteers involved with this 'energy-based' therapy program.

TNW currently has cataloged over 11,000 hours of volunteer time – the equivalent of 5 – 6 FTE's.

TNW is proud to have approximately 298 Active Volunteers on their roster.

Old Business - None

At 6:45 PM the Board entered an Executive Session.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Saccardi, Secretary
July 9, 2009