

**Maplewood Nursing Home Sub-Committee**  
**County Hall Building**  
**Commissioners Conference Room**  
**12 Court Street**  
**Keene, New Hampshire**  
**May 23, 2016**

**Present:** Subcommittee members: Representatives Michael Abbott, Richard Ames, John Bordenet, Daniel Eaton, Susan Emerson, Chairman John Mann, Jim McConnell, Timothy Robertson; Cynthia Chase, Marjorie Shepardson

**Commissioners and Staff:** Commissioner Stillman Rogers, Cheshire County Administrator Chris Coates, Maplewood Administrator Kathryn Kindopp, Maplewood Assisted Living Administrator. Christine Neal, Finance Director Cheryl Trombly.

The Maplewood Nursing Home Subcommittee of the Cheshire County Delegation meeting was opened at 10:04AM by Chairman John Mann. The subcommittee has explored options possible to amend the current Maplewood Nursing Home facility. This has brought questions about the future of the present assisted living facility. The purpose of this meeting is to explore information about Assisted Living; definitively, just what is assisted living and its practical purpose.

Maplewood Nursing Home Administrator Kathryn Kindopp introduced Christine Neal, the Administrator of the Assisted Living at the Maplewood facility, located in Westmoreland, NH, Ms. Neal has been Administrator there for almost a year and comes from a background of nursing and supervisory experience at Maplewood Nursing Home.

The subcommittee learned that the NH DHHS, Bureau of Health Facilities Administration licenses two categories of assisted living residences (ALRs): (1) supported residential health care facilities that may retain nursing home-eligible residents if appropriate care and services are provided; and (2) residential care facilities (RCFs) that provide a lower level of care. (as cited in the NH specific appendix of the 2015 DHHS ALF Compendium). Some licensing provisions differ based on facility size, as in 17 or more residents or 4-16 residents. In a smaller setting, the licensee might be the home owner.

Complete regulations are online at the following sites.

<http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/oos/bhfa/documents/he-p804.pdf>

<http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/oos/bhfa/documents/he-p805.pdf>

<http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/oos/bhfa/documents/he-p813.pdf>

<http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/html/xi/151/151-mrg.htm>

For more information:

Jeffrey A. Meyers

Director, Intergovernmental Affairs

Department of Health and Human Services

Administrator Kindopp explained that assisted living is a more flexible range of options in health care. Some of the support is similar to nursing home care but there is less need of skilled

nursing. Two important features are the aid given to residents in assuring their regular attention to necessary medications and prevention of falls. These two features are often missing when an elder person or couple are living alone in their home surroundings and can lead to more serious nursing needs. Also, there are cases that necessitate more than home-administered medicine. In describing the current assisted living residence in Westmoreland, Kindopp mentioned that assisted living costs the taxpayer about one third of nursing home cost. The pending requirement of having assisted living and nursing homes on separate campuses doesn't consider that often one spouse may live in each facility and the nearness allows them ease of 'back and forth' visits important to their well-being. Cheshire County officials and Adm. Kindopp are pursuing a waiver of the "same campus" mandate that is coming in the near future, so the county could continue with the two services on the same campus.

Representatives Eaton and Mann questioned the financial disposition of the operation, that is the proportion of Medicaid supported residents, and were told that 15 of 20 residents are Medicaid residents. There are those who, if necessarily released, would have no home and there are very few places available for them to go.

Ms. Neal emphasizes the advantage of social setting provided in the assisted living facilities, and fewer instances of problems with medicine and falls.

Adm. Kindopp related that there is a waiting list of 50, and that some come from the hospital to the nursing home for rehabilitation and then are admitted to Assisted Living for further help that would not be possible in their previous environment. She pointed out that 'as we look to increased population but fewer number of caretakers, assisted living offers a less expensive option than nursing home care and is Medicaid eligible up to the state level, thus 50% Fed./County.

Rep. Cynthia Chase inquires as to the possibility of "satellite" homes of 6-8 residents, small staff, cook, etc. scattered in communities and is reminded by Kindopp that the licensing requirements mandate a full time administrator.

It is brought out in discussion that the regulations are pushing to the level of individually defined care plans and other stringent requirements related to administration, etc. but these appear to be unfunded mandates when and if they are instituted.

Through much open discussion, the subcommittee decided that if Maplewood Nursing Home were to choose the option of a move to Keene, there would be a negative effect on the existing assisted living facility. All agreed that this is a matter that is necessarily part of the subcommittee's decision.

Representative Ames suggested and it was agreed to go forward with the public review of the existing options while being mindful of the impact to assisted living.

Rep. Bordenet asked for the public hearing schedule. County Adm. Coates gave the following: All meetings will begin at 6:30 pm

(Further details of locations and dates forthcoming)

Keene...6/15/16, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Cheshire Co. Court House

Winchester...6/20/16

Jaffrey.....6/27/16

Sullivan

Westmoreland

Rep. Gladys Johnsen moved the meeting be adjourned.

Rep. McConnell seconded the motion.

The meeting adjourned at 11:17 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane B. Johnson