

**Cheshire County Delegation
Maplewood Nursing Home Sub-Committee (MWNH)
May 8, 2015
Cheshire County Courthouse
12 Court Street
Keene, New Hampshire**

The following minutes are a draft, only, and not to be considered official until reviewed and voted upon by the MWNH Sub-committee.

Present: Representative John Mann, Chairman; Representatives Richard Ames, Paul Berch, John Bordenet, Cynthia Chase, Dan Eaton, Gladys Johnsen, Jim McConnell, and Timothy Robertson and Marjorie Shepardson; Commissioner Stillman Rogers, Commissioner Charles Weed, Maplewood Nursing Home Administrator Kindopp, Asst. County Administrator (ACA) Rod Bouchard, and several members of the public.

Absent: Representatives Susan Emerson and Michael Abbott

The meeting of the MWNH Sub-committee of the Cheshire County Delegation was opened at 10 a.m. by Chairman John Mann. Representative Mann distributed the agenda and announced that he would ask the members who attended the Chelsea, MA, Green House facility to speak to their reactions or impressions.

Rep. Jim McConnell spoke to his positive impressions with the ALS unit geared exclusively to ALS patients and equipped with a sophisticated wireless communication system permitting those patients to open doors and control appliances from their wheelchairs. He added that Scott Brown, Director from the Green House Project Community Solutions Group, said that the concept of putting separate Green House communities under one roof could be acceptable, however, they would not be prepared to deviate from their requirement that all cooking be done in each individual community's kitchen. In regard to financial requirements for membership in the Green House project the total cost was quoted as a one-time initial payment of \$200,000, and an annual fee of \$40 per bed is also charged. This would be \$6000 per year for a 150 bed facility such as Cheshire County's nursing home. Rep. McConnell did point out that, on the positive side, this might not be unreasonable considering their collaborating with architects, helping with waivers from the federal government, and providing assistance and answers to questions on an ongoing basis. On the negative side, Rep. McConnell added that he continues to see difficulty of having the typical MWNH patient/resident conform to the Green House Model and he sees the Mountain View facility of Grafton County as superior in its centralized food preparation and the advantage of the light and airy spaces provided. He also noted that at the Chelsea facility, residents are screened, not all accepted, and that only the rehab facility (short stay) is without a waiting list.

Rep. John Bordenet prefers the Green House Model among all he has visited and sees it as serving all conditions well.

Rep. Paul Berch commented that the Chelsea Green House separates Alzheimer and dementia patients and that population's residence was not part of the tour. He remarked that the same was true at the Green House Model in Cohoes, NY.

Rep. Richard Ames disagreed with Rep. Berch and found the physical amenities pleasing and homelike.

Representatives Shepardson and Robertson also commented positively.

Representative Mann said that he thought the Chelsea facility appeared as 'very high-end' and expensive. The funding there comes greatly from charities and is much more expensive than we would be able to provide in Cheshire County.

Rep. Mann announced that a geriatrics physician, Dr. Lisa Leinau, would be coming to speak to the group.

Rep. Cynthia Chase was then asked by the Chair to deliver a report she had prepared from research via the internet. She spoke about eight (8) sources she had discovered in various states. While all of these were very positive in their reflections and statements about the Green House Model, St. Martin in the Pines, Birmingham, Alabama, was the focused example of her report. St. Martin in the Pines information may be accessed at [http:// www.stmartins.ws/](http://www.stmartins.ws/) Rep. Chase also related facts discovered in regard to some Veteran Association establishments that are Green House Model facilities.

Representative Berch spoke to these comments saying that he had researched and found that of 36,000 Veterans in facilities, only 160 were in GH Models. In Colorado specifically, there are 637 Veterans in facilities and only 40 are in Green House Models. His question: What are the determining health-related factors directing which residents would be in Green House Model facilities?

Others reminded the committee that MWNH residents are often those who have been denied entry to other facilities locally. There is a question of which residents are most suited to a Green House Model facility.

A motion was brought forward by Rep. McConnell regarding comparison of costs relevant to a nursing home in the towns of Hinsdale, Winchester and the two census tracts in Keene, all of which are eligible for New Market Tax Credits. This led to McConnell's withdrawing of the motion when Commissioner Rogers suggested it be a request and that he would answer the request.

Rep. Berch presented a motion to bring about comprehensive cost analyses of a variety of scenarios to serve to resolve the problems of type of building and location of same. Rep. McConnell seconded. After some discussion, it was unanimously agreed to postpone this motion to the next meeting, May 22, 2015.

Representative Chase then moved that the committee entertain only the consideration of a facility that offered each resident one bedroom and with one bathroom. Rep. Johnsen seconded the motion. During

discussion, it was stated that this was not cost effective if work at Maplewood was confirmed, and that this forecloses some options and is not acceptable in consideration of the public and taxpayers.

Representative Chase withdrew the motion. Rep. Johnsen, who had seconded the motion agreed. Dr. Lisa Leinau, a local geriatrician at Cheshire Medical and Dartmouth Hitchcock Hospital, was present to speak to the subcommittee and answer their questions. She cited the variety of personal habits of residents in long term care as contributing to her support of the Green House model. She added that private rooms and baths would contribute to the stability of staff as well as the safety and comfort of the resident. She commented that the needs of the elderly as applied to control of their own territory or space, comparable to that of a younger person.

When asked where she would refer a patient under her care if he/she had to be removed from a Keene based nursing facility due to problems with their behavior, Dr. Leinau answered, "That has not happened."

When questioned whether in her profession she had found any Green House that serves solely a population such as that found at MWNH, Dr. Leinau replied that most nursing homes have similar populations.

She expressed a supposition that patients might be more manageable in a Green House environment because 'anyone anywhere fears having to wait'. Regarding a comparison of staff ratio in Maplewood to that of a Green House model, Dr. Leinau replied that would 'depend on their needs'.

Rep. Berch inquired if Green House Models have been recommended by American Association of Geriatrics and Dr. Leinau replied that to her knowledge the association had never taken a stand. Dr. Leinau expressed preferences of single bedrooms, well lighted, open spaces, and access to comfortable social association, safety and security as contributing to the ideal elderly care facility.

Dr. Leinau left the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

ACA Rod Bouchard reported that he had contacted MacMillan Company and Ascent Consulting Company. He listed three options and the prices these companies had given to figure costs:

1. The first scenario would include the replacement of all electrical, plumbing, and HVAC as needed, any work needed to bring the facility fully into the new (2012) Life Safety code requirements, the addition of AC to all floors, and paint and paper. (A rehab in place option)
2. The second option would be all of the above and the addition of making the bathrooms fully ADA (and all other spaces as well) code compliant recognizing that we will most likely be losing bed space in achieving this goal. (A mid-point rehab to bring the building to current codes and solve the 4 residents to one bath problem).
3. The third option would be options 1 or 2 and to add to each floor a common gathering area "living room" and to bring the existing kitchen areas in the dayrooms that are on each floor up to current code.

Two companies were willing to undertake the work and submitted the following quotes:

Ascent Consulting, Underhill VT - \$8,000

Macmillan / Dew Williston VT & Keene, NH - \$17,000

A short discussion concerning cost of the quotes ensued and at the conclusion Rep. McConnell recognized that Ken Bakke of Spofford, retired from the construction industry and experienced in the building of hospitals and similar institutions, was present among public attendees and has worked on a report as to costs of renovation and/or construction.

Rep. Mann introduced Mr. Bakke to the subcommittee and has asked that he submit his report at the next meeting.

On May 15, 2015, members of the subcommittee plan to visit the Merrimac County facility in Boscawen, NH.

The meeting was adjourned at 12 noon.

The next meeting will be held at 10 a.m. on May 22, 2015, Commissioners' meeting room, in the Court House, 12 Court St., Keene, NH.