

Minutes of the SAC  
Medical Use Working Committee  
November 27, 2001

Present at the meeting were: John Berkoben MD, Bob Carey, Lynne Lowenstein and invited guests listed below. Nancy Meuse, a representative of Hospice Care, Inc., was invited but was unable to attend.

1. The minutes of the last meeting were approved.
2. Invited Health Provider Guests:
  - A. The Lexington Board of Health, represented by Burt Perlmutter, MD, suggested the following possible uses of the Symmes:
    1. Elder Services - (High rate of depression among the elderly) – would like to see some Mental Health services/facility provided for this population.
    2. Youth Services – again, some type of Mental Health services provided for high-risk behavior teens (obesity, increase in diabetes, smoking, drugs)
    3. Perhaps some health care companies would be interested in relocating to the site.
  - B. Minuteman Senior Services, represented by Harold Forbes, gave a brief background on Minuteman:

Minuteman is a federally sponsored program, run by the state, falling under the auspices of the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. It was established in 1975 and is one of 27 area agencies and it encompasses 16 communities. Minuteman is a home care service facilitator. It coordinates home health care, financial management, shopping, “The Ride” and “Meals on Wheels.” It provides assistance with services not covered by other insurance providers. It is run by an Executive Director and has a 25 member board. It is located in Burlington and has 75-100 employees.

Dr. Forbes pointed out that one of the most pressing problems is finding home health aides, especially the further out one has to go (i.e. northwest communities.) This is largely because of the lack of public transportation. Low pay factors into the equation as well.

Recommendations for the Symmes site were consistent with Dr. Perlmutter’s suggestions:

    1. Mental Health Services for Seniors – geriatric screening and treatment.
    2. Medical Services – Expand laboratory services (x-ray to include ultrasound, CT scanning, MRI, GI series.)
    3. Other Physicans/Physican Groups.
    4. Extremely important to provide services to the elder population so that they don’t have to go outside of Arlington for their care.]
    5. Medical Research Groups.
3. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynne Lowenstein