

Report to the Board of Commissioners

May 13, 2015

From the Cedarbrook Advisory Team:

Debbie Salas-Lopez, MD MPH, Anne Baum, Rev. Rodney Wells, NHA, M.Div.

**Cedarbrook Advisory Team work to date:**

The Cedarbrook Advisory Team consisting of Rod Wells, Anne Baum, and Debbie Salas-Lopez was convened by the Lehigh County Board of Commissioners in late March 2015. Subsequently a team kick-off phone call meeting with the Advisory Team was coordinated by Brad Osborne and Vic Mazziotti. Rod Wells was elected Team Chairperson. Under the direction of Rod, we have spent our time fact-finding, reading reports available to us, visiting the Cedarbrook facilities, and speaking with the various stakeholders. The Advisory Team has had phone conversations to discuss the facts as they are today and making plans for the additional information needed so that we can make long-term recommendations to the Commissioners. Rod Wells met with the County Executive, Tom Muller, and Daniel K. McCarthy, at the Government Center and was well received. Phone calls to other County Nursing Facilities in other Counties are being conducted. Phone interviews with persons who had applied for the team are also being conducted.

**Findings to date:**

Previously, work has already been done outlining the different options the County has for ensuring that Cedarbrook is successful clinically and financially. A detailed report inclusive of recommendation and options for the County was submitted by Complete HealthCare Resources Eastern, Inc. Subsequently, a response to that report was submitted by LW Consulting, Inc. Both reports were provided to and read by the Advisory Team. We believe that these reports provide an excellent perspective on the operations and finances of the organization. They also provide different options and approaches for the long term operational and financial vision for the organization. The Advisory Team will be discussing these along with the findings of facility visits and other information in the near future.

**Next Steps:**

The Advisory Team has been asked to submit high-level recommendations prior to the end of June 2015. In particular, we will present strategic recommendations for the long term sustainability of Cedarbrook. We will use the data and qualitative information provided to us as well as national best practice benchmarks and trends to help define these recommendations.