

R E S O L U T I O N NO. 27

Authorizing
COLLECTION OF FEES FOR CERTAIN SERVICES RENDERED BY THE
NASSAU COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, Chapter 68-80, Senate Bill No. 379, amended Chapter 154, Florida Statutes, by adding Section 154.06, thereby making provisions for the Board of County Commissioners of Nassau County to execute a resolution for the purpose hereinafter stated, now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Commissioners of Nassau County, Fernandina Beach, Florida, in regular meeting assembled on the 24th day of July, 1970, that effective July 24th 1970 the said Commissioners elect to begin collecting fees for services rendered by the public health nurses employed by the Nassau County Health Department, provided such services shall be rendered to patients receiving services from the Nassau County Home Health Services Association, Inc., between which the said Home Health Services and said Health Department have an Agreement. This Agreement has provisions for the payment of nursing services to be made quarterly to the said Health Department on a cost per visit basis.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Nassau County Health Department is authorized and directed to collect fees for nursing services as heretofore described, and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all funds collected hereunder shall be sent to the Division of Health payable to the Treasurer of the State of Florida, to the credit of the Nassau County Health Department. These funds are to be disbursed in the same manner as other Health Department funds are disbursed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of the Resolution be submitted to the Nassau County Health Department, Nassau County Home Health Services Association, Inc., and the Bureau of Local Health Services, Division of Health.

Witness: Dooley
EX-officio Clerk

Signed: James F. Stevens
Chairman, Board of Commissioners
of Nassau County

Date: July 24th, 1970

A G R E E M E N T

PURPOSE: Furnish nursing services by County Health Department

This Agreement made and entered into this _____ day of _____ 1970, by and between the NASSAU COUNTY HOME HEALTH SERVICES ASSOCIATION, INC., a non-profit Florida Corporation, hereinafter referred to as HOME HEALTH SERVICES, and the NASSAU COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT, hereinafter referred to as the HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, at the present time, the Home Health Services does not have sufficient qualified nursing personnel to fulfill the demands on it to provide nursing services; and

WHEREAS, the Health Department is prepared to furnish services of public health nurses to the Home Health Services to thereby assist the Home Health Services in carrying out its program; and therefore

IT IS AGREED BY AND BETWEEN THE HOME HEALTH SERVICES AND THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT AS FOLLOWS:

1. To the extent that it has qualified personnel available, the Health Department shall, on request of the Home Health Services, furnish the services of Public Health Nurses to the Home Health Services to perform home nursing services for and on behalf of said Home Health Services. That any public health nurse employed by the Health Department whose services are furnished to the Home Health Services pursuant to this Agreement shall remain at all times an employee of the Health Department.

2. The Health Department shall keep reasonable records of services furnished and such records shall be subject to audit by the Home Health Services at all reasonable times.

3. The Home Health Services shall pay the Health Department the actual fees collected, not to exceed the cost per visit as reflected in the most recent Time Cost Study.

4. The Health Department shall bill the Home Health Services each quarter of the year for services rendered during the preceding quarter and the Home Health Association shall pay all such bills within thirty (30) days.

5. Annually in November, the visit cost specified above in paragraph 3, to be paid by the Home Health Services shall be re-negotiated in proportion to increase or decrease in cost to the Health Department for furnishing services to the Home Health Services pursuant to this Agreement. The Health Department shall notify the Home Health Services of the amount of the adjusted visit cost which shall be effective the following January. The Home Health Services shall pay the adjusted charge as determined by the Health Department unless within thirty (30) days after receipt of notice thereof, the Home Health Services terminates this Agreement by thirty (30) days written notice as hereinafter authorized.

AGREEMENT BETWEEN

THE NASSAU COUNTY HOME HEALTH SERVICES, INC., AND THE NASSAU COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

6. This Agreement may be terminated at any time by either party by the giving of thirty (30) days written notice of intention to do so by the other party.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused this Agreement to be executed the date first above written.

Witness: DOLVIN FOREMAN NASSAU COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

By HARRY SHAPIRO, M.D.
Director

Witness: HARRY SHAPIRO, M.D. NASSAU COUNTY HOME HEALTH SERVICES ASSOCIATION, INC.

By MRS W. H. FLOOD
President

Witness: HELEN S. JOHNSON By MRS PHILIP STEWART
Secretary

Fee Collection Problem Now Solved For PH Nurses

The problem of the collection of fees by county public health nurses is causing concern in many places, and a solution has been offered.

In 1956 the first home nursing council was formed to offer home nursing care in a county which had no authority to collect fees for such services. Theory was that the nurse could collect the fee and turn it over to the council. Counties which had local authority from the legislature to collect fees had no such problem.

In 1969 the legislature passed a bill giving general authority to county health units to collect "reasonable fees on a schedule established by the board of county commissioners." Then an audit report criticized the practice of county public health nurses collecting fees and turning them over to the councils. The councils were billing Blue Cross for reimbursement for the nursing care which had been rendered by county employees.

In Florida the DH is the agency authorized to recommend certification for Medicare, naming the agency in each county which meets the requirements to render home health services. Where the CHD is the certified agency no more need be done

than have the county commissioners establish a schedule of reasonable fees.

But in the counties where the CHD nurses have been collecting the fees and turning them in to the certified voluntary agency — the council — the Bureau of Local Health Services has suggested that the commissioners establish the fees, and that a formal contract be entered into by the CHD and the certified agency for the purchase of the nursing service from the CHD on a cost-per-visit basis.

The nurses would render home nursing care to Medicare and other patients in the course of their duties. The council, having purchased the services from the CHD, would then collect its reimbursement from the patient, Medicare, or both, as the case may be.

On December 1, Home Health Services, DH, summarized the situation as follows: 43 counties have arrangements for rendering home nursing service; nine CHDs have been given a schedule of reasonable fees by their county commissioners; 17 are certified CHDs and 25 are CHD-council combinations. None of the latter had signed nursing service contracts.

Septic Tanks Become A Real Concern For DH

Sidney Berkowitz, M.S. Eng., Chief
Bureau of Sanitary Engineering,
DH

Probably you will remember the fable of the Arab who sat in his tent on a cold night and was asked by the camel if he could just put his nose in the tent to warm it. The Arab said he could, but the camel pressed his advantage, getting into the tent his head, his shoulders, his hump and finally his whole body, crowding out the Arab entirely. That is the situation we have with septic tanks in Florida today.

The septic tank was a great invention, replacing the open or pit privy with an entirely concealed dispersal system for domestic liquid waste which served its purpose admirably. It was dependent upon a drain field of piping which diffused the water into the soil, allowing the solids to be digested — slowly and partially — in the tank.

The septic tanks were relatively cheap and installed one at a time — and the advantage of this to the subdivision developer can easily be realized.

POPULATION PROBLEMS

But Florida's population density grew and grew, and septic tanks were installed in multiples in smaller lots until in many areas they were serving as the only means of sewage disposal in vast urban areas. The most elementary definition of public health environment protection would clearly indicate that this must stop — and even in some instances be reversed.

The reasons for this are simple. Septic tanks do not treat sewage. They allow some of the heavier solids to settle out. The remaining liquid — dispersed to the soil — is very dangerous. So long as such facilities are far enough apart — and

the water table remains stable — all can go well for years. Then comes a wet season, the water lifts the liquid waste above ground level, and conditions are created which would make the most primitive people wince. This has happened in Florida.

DH Formula

For years the Bureau of Sanitary Engineering has worked with powerful persuasion and weak laws to get the public authorities and builders of Florida to accept a formula for the dividing line between acceptability and unacceptability of septic tanks. Too briefly stated that formula says that an acre lot in the country is suitable; a one-half to one acre lot where soil is right and future sewage disposal is definitely planned is suitable; and a less than half acre lot is unsuitable for a septic tank under any conditions.

From decades of experience and hundreds of specific examples, our bureau now takes the stand that this formula must be adopted universally in Florida. The alternative is a rapidly rising incidence of mass septic tank failures, and very possibly epidemics of serious disease.

I have taken recent steps in several areas of the state which received press attention. I have called upon the counties involved, the regional engineers and the subdivision developers to accept a hard line application of the described formula and refuse to issue further septic tank permits to subdivisions. I believe this step is necessary, and that similar actions will have to be taken in the future in other areas.

The Bureau of Sanitary Engineering calls upon every public health professional in the state to support this stand and to help make it understandable to the public.

In simplest terms — Florida urban citizens can no longer store their disease-ridden wastes on their property. There just isn't room for it.

TB Bureau Formed; Includes Hospitals

Effective on or about January 15, the Tuberculosis Control Section will be combined with the state TB hospitals (W. T. Edwards, Tampa; A. G. Holley, Lantana) to form the DH Bureau of Tuberculosis Control. Under reorganization, the hospitals which had been operated under the State Tuberculosis Board became a part of DH. The board was abolished in the reorganization.

Dr. Lawrence A. Manni will join DH as chief of the bureau, which will have two sections. One will be concerned with community TB programs and will be headed as in the past by Dr. Dwight J. Wharton. The other section will be devoted to the operation of the hospitals.

Dr. James A. Bax, Secretary, HRS, was able to have enacted by the legislature a statute authorizing him to assign new patients and to transfer patients within the department to state tuberculosis hospitals. This will result in more effective utilization of the hospitals, as under previous law they were restricted to admission of diagnosed or suspected TB patients.

Patients from the state mental hospitals are presently the prime candidates for this space. The patients will be those needing extended care but without extensive mental treatment. Space in the Lantana hospital will be made available for these patients in the near future.

LAKE CHD OPENS NEW BUILDING

The Lake CHD has moved into new quarters at 421 West Main Street in Tavares. The building was well architected and engineered for its purpose and allows for doubling its capacity by adding a second floor. The \$150,000 facility is on a large lot with attractive front lawn and 30 parking spaces to side and rear. Its nearly 6000 feet of space is divided into a large waiting room-auditorium, administrative offices, clinics and examining rooms, staff offices and utility rooms. The building has total heating and cooling, taped music, key telephones and intercom. Staff has expressed the thought that the county has shown its appreciation and faith in the 31-year-old community health department.

SARASOTA has reversed a recent trend in the state — a trend away from CHD monthly newsletters. A few years ago five of the larger counties had such publications. This had dropped to one (Hillsborough's "Health Beam"). Now Sarasota comes forward with an eight page, 8½ x 7 inch, unstitched bimonthly offset job entitled **Health Department Headlines**. The title is in bold black capitals, runs across a dark blue banner with a white map of the county in the corner. The lead story is one-columned on the front page and by-lined. It deals with the county's adjustment to the dental preceptorship blackout. Centerfold is three columns, the center being on a blue field, a message from the health officer. Rest of the sheet is two columns with a number of county-oriented stories, clinic schedules, vital statistics and fillers.

One of these little charmérs says, "A seat belt can wrinkle your dress — a windshield can wrinkle your face." An administrative assistant is the editor, and the product clearly indicates she knows what she is doing. The health officer says the bulletin is "widely dis-

tributed to community leaders and interested citizens — to better communicate our plans and ideas, as well as our problems, to those upon whom we depend for support."

MANATEE'S "Health Protector" one of the older monthlies, is also revived, now that the county has a health educator.

MONROE has immunized 1000 children against measles (rubeola). That statement is less than startling alone, but it gains in significance as one remembers that the county consists of a vast chunk of the Everglades at one end and Key West at the other, strung together by one long bridge which links 100 miles of tiny islands. There are 8000 schoolchildren in the county, and since it is known that private physicians have been busy with vaccine the CHD estimates that a good 50 percent of the youngsters have been reached, with the mass campaign catching the hard core. The media gave "excellent" help. The staff mentioned particularly the closed circuit television in this respect. Campaign was a joint effort of the CHD and the medical society.

SEMINOLE presented the second in a series of health education programs at the Jackson Heights School in Oviedo on Monday, October 24 at 8 p.m. This is a large area of farm workers and rural poor in the south end of the county. The program was under the direction of the Migrant Project, assisted by a representative of the cancer society. Two color films were shown, the first on "Breast Self-Examination;" the second "Time and Two Women," a film on cancer of the cervix and uterus. This was preceded by a paper on

DH & CHD's Eligible For Training Scholarships

The DH Training Office is reminding all eligible personnel of the scholarships available for the 1970-71 college year. Both federal and state awards are on tap for graduate training in professional and technical fields.

Employees chosen for scholarships will have to be under 45 and have served in their agency at least a year after graduation with a superior academic record. Florida licensure or registration where applicable is required, as is recommendation from the immediate supervisor.

Occasional applications for undergraduate study by seniors are accepted under special circumstances. The school chosen should be a Florida institution if possible and must be east of the Mississippi River. To apply for a one-year, tax-free stipend

(Continued from page 3)

statistics on cancer of these organs in the female read by the Health Officer. Following the showing of the films there was a lively, interesting and informative question and answer period. Leaflets were distributed and refreshments served.

MANATEE Medical Society and CHD are making plans to start a family planning service to be made available for all women of childbearing age. Local physicians will provide services assisted by CHD staff • • • A demonstration project on animal waste disposal is under construction. This is a combined effort of U F, Soil Conservation Service, County Agriculture Department, Hood's Dairy and Environment-

of 75 percent of present salary plus tuition and travel for one round trip between home and campus, an employee must submit through his sponsoring supervisor a letter. It should contain: the usual data regarding present personal and employment status; educational and employment background; status on licensure or registration if applicable; course, degree and school desired; evidence of acceptance by school; a statement by the applicant that he intends to return to Florida public health employment to remain at least two years.

A letter is also requested from the employer evaluating the employee and supporting application for further training.

Nurses are reminded of the additional opportunities available to them under special legislation. Further information may be obtained from the DH Training Office.

al Engineering Department of CHD. Analyses will be performed throughout all phases of treatment to document the degree of effectiveness • • • An attempt is also being made to secure grant funds for research on environmental changes as a result of incoming industry.

VOLUSIA Dental Unit received a highly appreciated Christmas present from a local dentist, Rotary and Civitan clubs of Daytona Beach. These benefactors contributed two pedodontic (child size) dentist chairs and lounge conversions for chairs at the three clinic locations. The latter replace the conventional seats with form-fitting couches similar to those of astronauts, placing the patients in a semi-prone position.