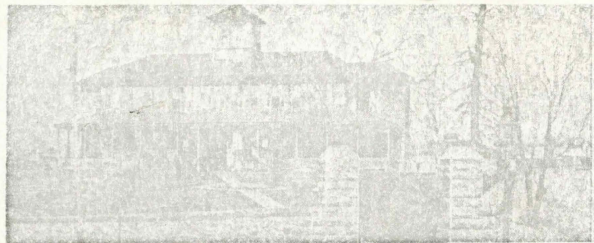
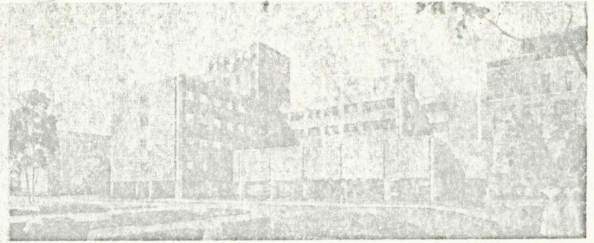


Correspondence: Saxon, Thomas P. (Clarks
Barre General Hospital), 1972 December



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WILKES-BARRE GENERAL HOSPITAL

WILKES-BARRE, PENNSYLVANIA 18702

December 22, 1972

Mrs. Margaret Anderson
RD #1
Sweet Valley, Pennsylvania

Dear Mrs. Anderson:

Enclosed are copies of the minutes of the recent meeting of the Wyoming Valley Hospital Council. After reviewing these minutes, I would suggest that a meeting with Judge Rosenn be held for further discussion. Will you please arrange this meeting at your and the Judge's convenience.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Saxton
President

TPS:jd

Enclosure

A meeting of the Wyoming Valley Hospital Council was held on December 13, 1972 at 12:15P.M. at the Wilkes-Barre General Hospital.

Present were: Nesbitt Hospital--General Frank Townend, Mr. Edward Wildes; Wyoming Valley Hospital--Mr. Roy Morgan, Mr. Eugene Goldstein; Pittston Hospital--Miss Tinsley, Dr. Horvatt, Mr. Lyden, Mercy Hospital--Sister Miriam Ruth; Wilkes-Barre General Hospital--Mr. Parkhurst, Dr. Wartella, Mr. Saxton.

The purpose of the meeting was to consider the report and recommendations of the Flood Recovery Task Force, Inc. covering the shortage of long term care beds in the community as a result of the June flood. The Task Force is seeking broad community support for the recommendations as part of the strategy in presenting the program to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The report of the Task Force came to conclusions and recommendations for which support of the Council is requested. The following are the recommendations and action by the Council:

1. The Council recognizes the need for additional beds at Valley Crest and supports this recommendation.
2. That the Board of Directors of the Wilkes-Barre General Hospital be asked to reactivate the beds in the Nurses' Residence that were utilized during the emergency. This to augment the number of nursing home beds for the immediate future until new facilities can be constructed.

Considerable discussion was held on this recommendation. Doubts were expressed by several members that approval for this facility would be obtainable under the safety codes of Labor and Industry. Apprehension was expressed by several members on the legal responsibility that might fall on the General Hospital in case of a fire or other disaster that could impair the life and safety of patients when the facility being used is known not to be in conformity with present safety codes. One member had expressed in writing his concern on the financial drain which could result to the General Hospital because of retrospective denial by fiscal intermediaries. He felt that the provision of this type of care was a community responsibility and it was unfair to place it on the General Hospital exclusively. It was suggested that Mr. Saxton meet with the Task Force and suggest that the County Commissioners assume this responsibility by leasing the building from General Hospital and assuming the responsibility for its operation. Another suggestion was to have a non-profit corporation operate the facility through a lease arrangement with the General Hospital. The Council supports and recognizes the need for additional intermediate care beds provided that arrangements can be made that are satisfactory to the General Hospital.

3. The possibility of raising reimbursement rates in Pennsylvania is already being explored actively at the State level. A committee representing the County Home Association, the Health Care

Facilities Association of Pennsylvania, and the Pennsylvania Association of Non-Profit Nursing Homes, is working with the Department of Welfare to develop a schedule of phased increases in reimbursement rates based on a more realistic cost system. This report is due for completion by the end of November and will recommend the following increases:

1. Skilled nursing care from \$15.00 to \$18.00 per day.
2. Intermediate care from \$10.00 to \$17.00 per day.

Therefore, this committee recommends that Luzerne, Lackawanna, and Wyoming Counties be designated as a Pilot Project Area and that the implementation of these new rates go into effect in these counties as of January 1, 1973. The committee anticipates this would afford several opportunities to improve the critical situation in these three counties.

The Council supports this recommendation. However, it was pointed out that the introduction of Lackawanna County might present some difficulties since the enabling legislation in Pennsylvania is restricted to the counties involved in the flood, i.e. Luzerne and Wyoming.

Mr. Saxton then pointed out that the term of office for the General Hospital as President and Secretary of the Council had expired in June. It was decided that the General Hospital would continue in office until June of 1973 at which time Wyoming Valley Hospital will assume the responsibility.

Meeting adjourned at 2:15 P.M..

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas P. Saxton
Thomas P. Saxton
Secretary

TPS:jd

