DECEMBER 21, 1979
SKILLED NURSING CARE TASK FORCE
2:00 P.M., COURTHOUSE ANNEX, ROOM 227

Present: Ilonka McNeill, Citizens for Better Care
         Ronald Koshorek, Planning Commission
         Diane O'Boyle, Marquette County Health Department
         Larry Stone, Administrator, Acocks Medical Facility
         Karen Saari, Administrator, Mather and Palmer Nursing Homes

Ilonka McNeill called the meeting to order. She asked for a motion to
approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Larry Stone made a motion
and Art Streeter seconded it and the minutes were approved. She then
asked for a motion to appoint a secretary. Mrs. Saari nominated Art
Streeter and Larry Stone seconded the nomination. Art Streeter was
appointed secretary.

Larry Stone suggested a trip to Acocks and to the Mather Nursing Home to
look at both an older facility and a modern facility.

Karen Saari asked for a clarification of what the objectives of the
committee will be.

Ilonka McNeill asked for a motion to table the visit to Acocks and Mather
until they look at the other objectives of the committee. She felt they
needed to get more figures and information in regard to the first
objective of the committee before they make the visits. A motion was
passed to put aside the visit until a later time.

Ilonka McNeill did a telephone survey of all the nursing homes in the
area. All of the beds are filled and there are waiting lists at every
facility except for Palmer Nursing Home. They had two beds empty.

Art Streeter passed out information on projections his agency had put
together.

Mrs. Saari said we brought in fifty persons that were not residents when
the Mather Nursing Home opened. Art Streeter suspects that some residents
from Alger County are in some of our facilities.

Ilonka McNeill believes some patients might be better off if they had more
facilities for homes for the aged. Mrs. Saari feels that people in the
U.P. are more independent. They stay home until they absolutely need
help and by that time they are in such bad shape that they have to go into
a nursing home. Donna O'Boyle agreed with her. She said from her
experience, people just don't want to go into homes for the aged or
senior citizens apartments. They stay at home until they must go into a
nursing home. She said the waiting list is eighteen of people that need
nursing aid in the home from the Health Department. She said their
services are utilized 100%.

Art Streeter said a PSRO (organization that looks at patients in all
hospitals) review looked at every federally sponsored patient and that in
1977, seventy-nine patient days were spent because they were waiting for a
nursing home opening. Just knowing that, and looking at some other areas
in the U. P., we are handling the situation. In areas such as Houghton,
they are waiting in the hospitals.
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Larry Stone said he feels there is not a whole lot of surplus beds. We have enough beds in the county now and we're at a point where the supply is meeting the demand. Karen Saari said they are supposed to get rid of 34 beds by 1981. Thirty-four beds at Palmer are supposed to be phased out in 1981. Ilonka asked Mrs. Saari and Larry Stone if they have any patients that could possibly be put into homes for the aged. Mrs. Saari said it seems they get used to the environment they're in and can't accept the change if they are moved from nursing homes to homes for the aged. Larry Stone agreed with her and asked Donna O'Boyle if she had any experience with this. She said she felt the same way - that older people get used to the environment they're in and its hard for them to change environments.

The task force doesn't have any figures on how may out of the county people are in county facilities. They only keep accurate count on acute care patients in most facilities. They have no access to how many patients from Marquette County are in other counties facilities. Art Streeter will talk to his boss and check to see if he can conduct a survey to try to find out some of this information.

Ilonka McNeill said that she felt that they had an answer to the first question put to the committee. There is a need for skilled nursing care in Marquette County. Ron Koshorek stated he felt that they couldn't say they had an answer until they had the figures to prove it. He suggested they have a figure to put before the board. Donna O'Boyle feels they need a number to go by also. Art Streeter said he would work on a number if they want to let it go for now. He will try to have it ready for the next meeting. Ron Koshorek said he would like to look at a statement also. Art Streeter will make a summary statement at the next meeting and the committee will go from there.

Mr. Streeter said whether they build a new facility at Acocks or have a private party develop the beds, they will still lose fifty-seven beds. Donna O'Boyle asked if the excess space at Acocks was usable space; could it be used as home for the aged beds? Larry Stone said they would have to look at the facility to determine what use the space would have. He said the space could possibly be used for additional beds.

The committee wondered if the V. A. Hospital would take away any of our need for beds here in Marquette County. There are eight patients that would possibly qualify at Acocks and a few that would possibly qualify at Palmer, so the V. A. Hospital will not take away much of the need for beds.

Karen Saari asked how Acocks chooses patients. Larry Stone said they pick patients in chronological order from the waiting lists. She said they take private pay patients first and skilled care patients next at Palmer Nursing Home.

Ilonka McNeill asked if Larry Stone is doing a cost analysis of Acocks and Karen Saari if she is doing one at Palmer. They will get them ready for the next meeting.

Ilonka asked for a motion to set up a time and date for the next meeting. A motion was made and seconded and the meeting will be held on the last Monday in January - January 28, 1980 at 2:30 P.M. in Room 227 of the Courthouse Annex. A motion was made and seconded that the meeting be adjourned.