APRIL 30, 1980
SKILLED NURSING CARE TASK FORCE
8:00 A.M., COURTHOUSE ANNEX, ROOM 12

PRESENT: Ilonka McNeill, Citizens for Better Care
         Richard Stoddard, Director, Marquette County Commission on Aging
         Larry Stone, Administrator, Acocks Medical Facility
         Diane O'Boyle, Marquette County Health Department
         Ronald Kooshok, Marquette County Planning Commission
         Ruby Cheatham, Marquette County Commissioner
         Karen Saari, Administrator, Mather and Palmer Nursing Homes

Ms. McNeill called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m. Mr. Streeter distributed copies of the
proposed Position Paper for the committee's review.

The Position Paper was titled "Nursing Care Needs in Marquette County - Report to the Marquette
County Board of Commissioners - By the Task Force on Nursing Care Needs in Marquette County."

The committee reviewed the minutes from the April 25, 1980, meeting for possible corrections.
Mr. Stoddard requested that paragraph #7 on page 1 be changed to read: "The current average
cost reimbursement by the County for Newberry State Hospital is $9.49/patient."

Mr. Streeter asked that the word "public" be changed to "private" in sentence #3 of paragraph
#9 on page 1.

Ms. O'Boyle asked for a clarification of the second to the last paragraph on page 1. Mr.
Streeter explained the last sentence in that paragraph should read: "The projected operating
cost savings for a new facility would range between $140,300 and $223,100 based on yearly
staffing figures supplied by Mr. Stone."

Mr. Stoddard moved to accept the minutes of the April 25, 1980, meeting as amended. Mr.
Streeter seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Discussion followed on the Position Paper. Ms. Saari questioned the intent of meaning in
paragraph #3 on page 10 of the Position Paper.

Mr. Stoddard moved to insert paragraph #7 on page 10 of the Position Paper immediately after
paragraph #3 on the same page. Ms. O'Boyle seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Ms. McNeill requested a clarification of the heading for Appendix B. She requested the heading
"Marquette County Commission on Aging" be deleted and to add the heading "Citizens for Better
Care" to the bottom survey.

Mr. Stoddard commented that the draft Position Paper does reflect, in his opinion, the discuss-
ions of the Skilled Nursing Care Task Force up to this point.

Mr. Stoddard moved to adopt the report "Nursing Care Needs in Marquette County - Report to the
Marquette County Board of Commissioners" as reported by the Task Force on Nursing Care Needs in
Marquette County, as amended. Mr. Streeter seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Ms. Cheatham recommends the Task Force should submit a copy of this report to the County Board
of Commissioners at their meeting of May 7, 1980.

Being there was no further discussion, Mr. Streeter moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 a.m.,
seconded by Ms. Saari. The vote was unanimous.
APRIL 25, 1980
SKILLED NURSING CARE TASK FORCE
9:00 A.M., COURTHOUSE ANNEX, ROOM 12

Larry Stone, Administrator, Acocks Medical Facility
Richard Stoddard, Director, Marquette County Commission on Aging
Ilonka McNeill, Citizens for Better Care
Ronald Koshorek, Marquette County Planning Commission
Ruby Cheatham, Marquette County Commissioner

Ms. McNeill called the meeting to order at 9:20 a.m.

The committee read the minutes of the April 15, 1980, meeting. Mr. Stoddard requested a correction to change the word "sound" to "specific" in paragraph 7 on page 1. There was no further discussion on the minutes.

Mr. Stoddard moved to accept the minutes of the April 15, 1980, meeting as amended. Mr. Streeter seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Several pieces of correspondence were handed out by various members of the committee.

Mr. Stoddard began discussion with the purpose for the visit to Acoks Medical Facility on Thursday, April 24th. The purpose was to look at the possibility of interim use of part of Acoks for the mentally impaired and retarded patients from Newberry. He also mentioned the committee should answer questions such as what it is going to cost to renovate Acoks Medical Facility and where this money is going to come from.

Mr. Stoddard also mentioned the committee should meet with architects and engineers to look at Acoks Medical Facility in order to determine an estimate on what the renovation would cost.

The current cost reimbursement by the County for Acoks Medical Facility is $9.49/patient.

An example was cited stating if the County's decision was to renovate to use Acoks Medical Facility for 3 years, the operating cost savings would probably total $125,000 or more for the 3 years.

The committee discussed the draft prepared by Mr. Stoddard regarding the need for nursing home beds for geriatric patients at the Newberry State Hospital (20-29 of which are from Marquette and Alger Counties). The Task Force Committee recommends that Acoks should provide the 25 beds to meet this need. The public sector does not wish to provide these services. By providing these services at Acoks, this will result in a significant cost savings to the County.

The Department of Mental Health is considering use of 4 regional facilities in the Upper Peninsula which would provide services for the mentally impaired and retarded patients in the future.

Mr. Streeter mentioned that some of the costs at Acoks are fixed, and others depend on the increased population.

Discussion then followed on the paper submitted by Mr. Stone. According to Mr. Stone, the major cause for problems at Acoks Medical Facility is the physical plant itself, which in turn requires an increase in personnel. The projected operating cost savings for a new facility would range between $140,300 and $223,100 based on the figures supplied by Mr. Stone.

The committee also discussed a handout from Mr. Stone regarding the 1979 budgeted figures for Acoks Medical Facility.
Mr. Koshorek pointed out to the committee the first thing to look at when considering a new facility is the location. Discussion then followed on his memorandum to the committee regarding location factors for a County Medical Facility. According to Mr. Koshorek, these include:

1. Institutions such as hospitals should be located near other services (such as clinics or laboratories);
2. They should be freely accessible by public transportation; and
3. They should be served by public water and sewer.

Fire protection should also be considered. Mr. Koshorek mentioned also the fact that a site should be chosen which allows construction at a relatively low ground coverage ratio (.3 or less) to allow for expansion.

Mr. Streeter moved the committee recommends as a primary option a new facility should be built to include the 25 beds for mentally impaired and retarded patients and to look at the relocation factors as specified by Mr. Koshorek. Mr. Stoddard seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Stoddard commented that when preparing the final position paper, include some of the types of services provided for "enhancement."

Mr. Stoddard raised a question about an isolation area for Tuberculosis patients. Discussion followed.

Mr. Stoddard moved to include the topic of an isolation area for Tuberculosis patients in the report as a potential need the County should look at. Mr. Streeter seconded. The vote was unanimous.

The committee decided to meet next on April 30th, at 8:00 a.m., in Room 12.

Being there was no further business, Mr. Stoddard moved to adjourn at 11:45 a.m. Mr. Streeter seconded. The vote was unanimous.
APRIL 15, 1980
SKILLED NURSING CARE TASK FORCE
9:00 A.M., COURTHOUSE ANNEX, ROOM 12

PRESENT: Ronald Koshorek, Marquette County Planning Commission
        Larry Stone, Administrator, Acoks Medical Facility
        Ilonka McNeill, Citizens for Better Care
        Diane O'Boyle, Marquette County Health Department
        Richard Stoddard, Director, Marquette County Commission on Aging
        Karen Saari, Administrator, Mather & Palmer Nursing Homes

Ms. McNeill called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. Mr. Streeter distributed copies of an
addition to Position Paper #2 to the committee.

The committee reviewed the minutes for the April 8, 1980, meeting. Mr. Stoddard requested
a correction be made in paragraph #8 on page 1; the correction to read as follows: "If
the County were going to renovate Acoks Medical Facility, the Alger-Marquette Community
Mental Health Center would help with establishing funds necessary for this renovation."

There were no further corrections to the minutes.

Mr. Stoddard moved to accept the minutes of the April 8, 1980, meeting as amended. Mr.
Koshorek seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Stoddard stated Mr. Sarkela has information available on models for enhancement such as
dental care in the nursing home, personnel problems, and various other things.

Ms. O'Boyle had several articles she shared with the committee regarding such topics as den-
tal care in the nursing home, personnel problems, and various other things.

Ms. O'Boyle mentioned the Task Force could make suggestions or recommendations for ideas for
enhancement or for building a new facility, but the committee should not be responsible for
making sound statements as to what exactly should be done.

The committee described several types of patient activities for the enhancement in nursing
care such as exercise programs, card playing, gardening, community activities, reality
orientation (which deals with a staff/patient ratio for the patient's awareness and compre-
hension of his/her surroundings), adult day care programs, and various other topics includ-
ing the decrease of drug dispensing and staffing patterns.

Mr. Stoddard commented it is going to be the Marquette County Board of Commissioners and the
Board of Institutions' responsibility to make the final decision on the facility used.

Mr. Stoddard also commented when it comes time for drafting the recommendations of the Task
Force to the County Board of Commissioners to add some of the things that have been talked
about regarding enhancement, such as a greenhouse, type of courtyard, and designing a facili-
ty that is going to lend itself to meeting the needs of long-term care patients. He also
mentioned the committee should attach some of the articles presented before the committee
with this paper.

Mr. Koshorek mentioned the possibility of the County providing a model for the rest of the
Country where the topics discussed could be tested, and also where Acoks could be used as
a model.

Ms. McNeill commented that the County could possibly use a role model in an effort to get
Federal funding.
Mr. Stoddard mentioned when making recommendations to the Marquette County Board of Commissioners, a point of interest should be raised that there is no documented difference between basic and skilled patient care, and there is a need for certain types of services for a certain part of the population that the County should provide.

Mr. Koshorek stated in addition to Acocks providing services to the mentally impaired and retarded patients, it will be brought up-to-date providing additional enhancement programs and services. The committee hopes this move will prove to be cost effective to the community.

Mr. Stoddard will meet with Mr. Sarkela and various other people in Lansing and will report any information back to the committee.

The committee will be meeting with Mr. Sarkela, Mr. Robert Hanson, and staff from Alger-Marquette Community Mental Health Center at Acocks Medical Facility, Thursday, April 24th, for the purpose of examining the possibility of renovation and enhancement.

Members of the committee will also be drafting portions of the Position Paper for the next meeting, which will be held April 25, 1980, at 9:00 a.m., in Room 12.

Being there was no further business to discuss, Mrs. Saari moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:30 a.m. Mr. Koshorek seconded. The vote was unanimous.
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Ms. McNeill stated that a concern would be how selective the administrator of a medical care facility is in selecting patients. She also stated that additional grants can be obtained for staffing needs for providing these extra services.

Mr. Heath commented that a one-to-one staff/patient ratio is needed for these types of patients because of the difficulty of care needed.

Mr. O'Boyle emphasized a point about the image presented if the County intended to keep these patients at Acoks Medical Facility.

Mr. Stoddard stated he had spoken with Mr. Robert Hanson, Alger-Marquette Community Mental Health Center, and Mr. Willoe Sarkela, Regional Mental Health Officer, Department of Mental Health, who stated that they are very much interested in this project. Mr. Stoddard also suggested that if the Alger-Marquette Community Mental Health Center wants a wing at Acoks Medical Facility to be licensed for these types of patients, there is a chance that they could convince the Department of Mental Health to allow minimal renovation.

Mr. Stone commented the Task Force should speak with an architect or engineer dealing with the renovation of Acoks Medical Facility.

Mr. Stoddard stated the Task Force should address the interim period on what to do in the meantime for these types of patients until a facility is available.

Mr. Stone questioned if Acoks Facility is renovated, would the facility possibly lose beds and Mr. Heath replied negatively. He stated the only circumstance would be where the facility doesn't have sufficient square footage for the beds.

Mr. Stoddard will be meeting with Mr. Hanson and Mr. Sarkela to get more details for the committee. He stated that the committee needs to pursue some specific recommendations on enhancement of the Acoks Medical Facility. Mr. Sarkela has some information on enhancement that he would like to share with the committee.

Mr. Kosnarek suggested that the Task Force should speak with someone in the Nursing Department at Northern Michigan University on the possibility that the nursing program could benefit from a formal contact with a medical care facility or nursing home.

Mr. Heath commented that no student can replace staffing of any kind but can enhance the staff.

Ms. O'Boyle suggested the Task Force look at what kinds of quality measures can be enhanced.

Members of the Task Force, as well as Mr. Dobis, will be collecting literature to bring to the next meeting.

The committee will meet April 15, 1980, at 9:00 a.m., in Room 12.

Mr. Stoddard moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:10 a.m. Ms. McNeill seconded. The motion was unanimous.
PRESENT: Richard Stoddard, Director, Marquette County Commission on Aging
Ronald Koshorek, Marquette County Planning Commission
Karen Saari, Administrator, Mather & Palmer Nursing Homes
Larry Stone, Administrator, Acoks Medical Facility

The committee opened the meeting at 9:10 a.m., by reviewing the minutes of the March 26th, 1980, meeting. There were no recommended corrections to the minutes.

Mr. Streeter distributed copies of a Position Paper to members of the Task Force Committee for discussion. The Position Paper dealt with the topic of what the County’s role is in meeting the long-term care needs of Marquette County. General discussion followed.

Mr. Stoddard commented that it might recognize reality to have the medical care facility take care of all types of patients in one facility. He also commented that it is less likely for patients to be admitted to the Newberry facility now due to budget cuts and various other factors.

Mr. Streeter commented that according to the Michigan Department of Public Health statistics, there is a 20 bed/1,000 elderly patient ratio in the State of Michigan.

Mr. Stoddard will be inviting Mr. Wiljoe Sarkela, Regional Mental Health Officer, to the next meeting as a resource person to the committee regarding information about mentally retarded and mentally impaired patients.

The committee, as well as Mr. Dobis, will be collecting literature for use as resource materials.

Due to the lack of a quorum, no actions were taken at this time. The committee will meet April 8, 1980, at 9:00 a.m., in Room 12.
MARCH 26, 1980
SKILLED NURSING CARE TASK FORCE
9:00 A.M., COURTHOUSE ANNEX, ROOM 227

PRESENT: Richard Stoddard, Director, Marquette County Commission on Aging
Larry Stone, Administrator, Acocks Medical Facility
Karen Saari, Administrator, Mather & Palmer Nursing Homes
Charles Dobis, Staff Person, Upper Peninsula Quality Assurance Association
Douglas Heath, Administrator, Norlite Nursing Center

The committee reviewed the minutes of the March 11, 1980, meeting for any recommended corrections to be voted upon at the next meeting. The corrections were as follows:

Page 1: Addition of "Ruby Cheatham, Marquette County Board of Commissioner" under the list of names of people present at the March 11, 1980, meeting.

Page 1: The last paragraph on page 1, the word "therefore" should be changed to "also."

Page 2: The second sentence in paragraph 1 should be changed to read "He stated there were special collection instruments used to collect the data on the 3 facilities in Marquette County."

Being there was no quorum present at this meeting, no actions were taken and only general discussion took place.

The committee did decide to meet again on April 2, 1980, in Room 12.
MARCH 11, 1980
SKILLED NURSING CARE TASK FORCE
2:00 P.M., COURTHOUSE ANNEX, ROOM 227

PRESENT: Richard Stoddard, Director, Marquette County Commission on Aging
Larry Stone, Administrator, Acocks Medical Facility
Karen Saari, Administrator, Mather & Palmer Nursing Homes
Diane O'Boyle, Marquette County Health Department
Ronald Koshorek, Marquette County Planning Commission
Charles Dobis, Staff Person, Upper Peninsula Quality Assurance Association

Mr. Streeter called the meeting to order at 2:20 p.m.

The minutes of the February 26, 1980, meeting were read by the Task Force Committee. The following corrections were made:

Correction #1: Page 1, under "Minutes of Previous Meeting", Ilonka McNeill called the meeting to order, not Arthur Streeter, as was stated in the minutes.

Correction #2: Page 2, paragraph #6; a clarification to read "Mr. Koshorek questioned whether there is a unique service (a separate need for special health problems) that Acocks Medical Facility is not providing."

Correction #3: Page 2, paragraph #1, sentence #2; a clarification to read "Mrs. Saari added there could be situations where patients could be more expensive to care for than the facility could afford."

Correction #4: Page 1, paragraph #4, sentence #2; This sentence should state that the State of Michigan prepares self-assessments on the nursing care requirements for each patient. Also in the same paragraph, the last sentence should state that members of the Task Force will prepare this data to bring to the next meeting.

Mr. Stoddard moved to approve the minutes with the corrections as mentioned. Mr. Stone seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Ms. O'Boyle reviewed the reports on the types and quality of care and the staffing patterns in county medical care facilities with the members of the Task Force Committee. Ms. O'Boyle mentioned she had spoken with Elizabeth Eiwanger, Supervising Nurse, Division of Health Facility Licensing and Certification, Michigan Department of Public Health in Lansing, regarding staffing, licensing surveys, etc.

Mr. Streeter mentioned that the outcome measures from the level of care form prepared by the Upper Peninsula Quality Assurance Association are good indicators on how the nursing home manages the patient.

Mrs. Saari reviewed with the members of the Task Force the levels of care evaluation prepared for the Mather Nursing Home.

Ms. O'Boyle mentioned the level of care form could possibly be divided into a more diversified form to cover such areas as dental hygiene, the number of times a patient ambulates, etc.

Ms. O'Boyle stated there are very few skilled facilities in the Upper Peninsula, six to be exact.

One subject discussed with Mrs. Eiwanger was that staffing seems to be higher in the county medical care facility; therefore, the salaries are higher in order to maintain the same staff. The subsidizing for the county medical care facility is based mainly upon the staffing patterns of that facility. In the larger county facilities, there is a higher staff per patient ratio than in the proprietary nursing homes and smaller county facilities. The medical care facility does seem to show a larger or better staffing ratio as compared to the skilled or basic care homes.
MARCH 11, 1980
SKILLED NURSING CARE TASK FORCE
2:00 P.M., COURTHOUSE ANNEX, ROOM 227
PAGE 2

Mr. Dobis discussed several articles referring to medical care facilities nationwide doing very innovative things in patient care. He stated there were 3 surveys conducted for the 3 facilities in Marquette County, which collected a large amount of data from the level of care form.

There are 3 possibilities open to the Acoks Medical Facility:

1. Close the facility;
2. Make the facility more cost effective if it is kept open;
3. Look at the service areas not being met, in addition to providing the same kinds of things as the facility now does.

The members of the Task Force Committee would like to determine three things:

1. What is the extent of need for this facility?
2. What is the County’s role towards this facility?
3. What is the most cost effective method to help keep the facility open?

The State surveys determine the character of the patient, whereas the level of care form from the Upper Peninsula Quality Assurance Association determines the character of the patient and the levels of care for the patient.

Mr. Stoddard will be contacting Diane Vezina, Medical Social Worker, Marquette General Hospital to discuss data on the number of people who have not been referred to a medical care facility because of the difficulty of care needed.

Charles Dobis will be contacting Dr. Douglas Sherk and will prepare data for the next meeting of the Task Force.

Mr. Stone will contact Pat Worthington, Social Worker, Bell Memorial Hospital, to discuss whether she could make the determination as to what facility a patient should go to, and will bring this material to the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned upon unanimous approval at 4:10 p.m.

The next meeting of the Skilled Nursing Task Force will be March 26, 1980, at 9:00 a.m., in Room 227.
Present: Ilonka McNeill, Citizens for Better Care  
Karen Saari, Administrator, Mather & Palmer Nursing Homes  
Larry Stone, Administrator, Acoks Medical Facility  
Richard Stockard, Director, Marquette County Commission on Aging  
Diane O’Boyle, Marquette County Health Department  
Douglas Heath, Administrator, Norlite Nursing Center  
Ronald Koshorek, Marquette County Planning Commission

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Arthur Streeter called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. The Board reviewed the minutes of the January 28, 1980, meeting. Discussion followed. Corrections to the minutes were as follows:

Page 1: Paragraph 3; the last sentence should read "... 30 or 40 patients in Upper Peninsula facilities are from Alger County."

Page 2: Deletion of paragraph 2.

Page 2: Addition of "nursing home" after "34" in paragraph 3.

Mrs. Saari moved to accept the minutes as amended. Mr. Streeter seconded. The motion passed.

Unfinished Business:

Discussion continued on the role of Marquette County in accordance with medical care facilities. Not all counties in the State of Michigan have medical care facilities. About one-half of the counties in the State have medical care facilities; two-thirds of the counties in the Upper Peninsula have them.

Several questions were raised as to the level of patient care in the medical care facilities:

1. Does the County need to provide quality care service?
2. Is there a difference in the levels of care according to patient difficulty?
3. If the answer to question #2 is yes, what is the best way to provide services?
4. If the answer to question #2 is no, should the medical care facilities have different levels of care for patient difficulty?

Another question raised was whether Marquette County should provide medical care facilities as a service to the County.

Discussion followed on the topic of levels of care. Facilities do self-assessment on the nursing care requirements for each patient (i.e., whether or not patients can bathe themselves, feed themselves, whether the patients are confused, the patient's ability to ambulate, etc.). Mrs. Saari will prepare this data to bring to the next meeting.

The Upper Peninsula Quality Assurance Association has provided a "Level of Care Form" to determine skilled services, locomotion, mental status, therapies, hygiene, eating, medications, continence, integument, and reaction toward illness and constructional needs. (See attached.)

The Upper Peninsula Quality Assurance Association has prepared audits on nursing care, such as the Foley catheter care, and PRN medications, as useful tools.

Mr. Streeter stated that he will be researching the staffing patterns existing in county medical care facilities (number of staff/patient, etc.), and will bring this data to the next meeting.

Ms. McNeill stated that copies of the data prepared on levels of care in nursing homes should be mailed to the members of the Board for their review prior to the March 11, 1980, meeting.
A question was raised whether extra money for medical care facilities would provide a mechanism for improving quality care by improving staffing, etc.

Kathy Snievly has been responsible for making determinations on the basic and skilled care patients. This is usually prepared every four months.

Mrs. Saari stated she will contact Ms. Snievly to attend next month’s meeting.

Ms. O’Boyle stated she will contact Charles Dobis (Upper Peninsula Quality Assurance Association), who is a staff person working on special projects for long-term care patients, to prepare data on the levels of care and to attend the March 11, 1980, meeting.

The Board then discussed the reimbursement ratio for Acocks Medical Facility, as well as other facilities in Marquette County.

Mr. Koshorek questioned whether there is a service Acocks Medical Facility is not providing.

Mr. Stoddard then stated that Acocks Medical Facility could possibly specialize in a certain service. He also stated that if there is no objective evidence concluded from the data prepared on the levels of care in nursing homes, then the Board would have to determine there is no difference in quality of care for patient difficulty.

Public Comment:

Mr. Heath commented a clarification should be made that only in special circumstances are tracheotomy patients not accepted by nursing homes. Mrs. Saari added there can be situations where patients could be more difficult to care for than most patient situations.

Discussion opened again regarding the minutes. Mrs. Saari withdrew her previous motion to accept the minutes as amended. Mr. Streeter withdrew his second.

Ms. McNeill requested sentence #3 in paragraph 5 under the heading “Position Paper” be deleted. She also requested that the first sentence in paragraph 2, under the same heading, be deleted and replaced with, "It would be extremely difficult to study how many patients come from out-of-county."

Ms. O'Boyle requested the deletion of the first sentence in paragraph 3 on page 2.

Mrs. Saari moved to accept the minutes as amended. Mr. Streeter seconded. The motion passed.

The Board then decided to meet on March 11, 1980, at 2:00 p.m., in Room 227, and weekly thereafter.

Mr. Stone moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:45 a.m., seconded by Mrs. Saari. The motion passed.
JANUARY 28, 1980
SKILLED NURSING CARE TASK FORCE
2:30 P.M., COURTHOUSE ANNEX, ROOM 227

Present: Ilonka McNeill, Citizens for Better Care
Karen Saari, Administrator, Mather and Palmer Nursing Homes
Larry Stone, Administrator, Acocoks Medical Facility
Ruby Cheatham, Marquette County Commissioner
Douglas Heath, Administrator, Norlite Nursing Center
Diane O'Boyle, Marquette County Health Department
Richard Stoddard, Director, Marquette County Commission on Aging

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

Ilonka McNeill called the meeting to order. She asked that copies of the Position Paper prepared by Art Streeter be sent to everyone on the mailing list. She also asked that a motion be made to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Larry Stone moved to accept the minutes from the December 21, 1979, meeting as presented. Mrs. Saari seconded. The vote was unanimous.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Position Paper:

Ms. McNeill asked for comments from the Task Force Committee in regards to the Position Paper. Discussion followed. Mr. Stone commented that he was not comfortable with the phrase that the county needs all but 23 of the beds anticipated to be licensed through the next four years. Mr. Stoddard asked if this was the difference that had been arrived at according to the Michigan Department of Public Health's formula, based on previous discussions, and Mr. Stone agreed.

Ms. McNeill stated that the committee need not study to see how many patients in Marquette County fall under out-of-county. There would be no way to get these types of figures, especially for those who are considered to be part of Marquette County. Mr. Stone discussed that he has six patients at Acocoks Medical Facility who are out-of-county patients. Three patients are from Alger County, one from Wayne, one from Luce, and one from Baraga Counties. Mrs. Saari stated that her facilities have two or three patients from out-of-state, and two who are from Alger County.

Ms. McNeill informed the Task Force Committee that there have been no patients transferred out from any Marquette County facility, with the exception of those who request it. She also stated that she is not quite sure what to do with the patients who are out-of-county. Ms. O'Boyle stated that the number of patients who are out-of-county from the Norlite Nursing Center would have to be looked up, as well as the percentages of skilled and basic care patients. Mrs. Saari mentioned that a total of 30 or 40 patients in Marquette County facilities are from Alger County.

Mrs. Saari moved that the Position Paper be accepted as presented, with the exception of the last paragraph on page 4. Discussion followed.

Ms. O'Boyle posed a question to the members of the Task Force Committee whether they should be considering the difference between long-term patient care (skilled nursing care) and basic patient care. Ms. McNeill stated that one thing the committee should really be concerned with is the need for nursing home beds. Ms. McNeill also stated that if the basic patient cannot live on his/her own, then under this circumstance, he/she should be placed in a skilled nursing home. Ms. O'Boyle stated that there is no difference (virtually none) in the reimbursement rate for the patient care costs at this time. Discussion ended regarding the motion.
Ms. Cheatham seconded the motion to accept the Position Paper as presented, with the exception of the last paragraph on page 4. The vote was unanimous.

Mrs. Saari stated in reference to foster care, in addition to skilled and basic care patients in the County facility (Acocks), without a Certificate of Need for these additional beds, this type of care would not be feasible at this time.

Ms. O'Boyle stated that the Task Force Committee doesn't have any information available to substantiate the statement that supply of beds is meeting the demand. According to the Michigan Department of Public Health's formula, there is a 65-bed excess (surplus) in the Marquette County service area, with an excess of 23 beds expected in 1984. Mrs. Saari also mentioned that 34 beds will be taken away from the Palmer Nursing Home by 1981.

Cost Analysis:

The Committee reviewed the Report of Comparative Expenses for the fiscal year of June 1, 1978, through June 30, 1979, for the Mather Nursing Home and Acocks Medical Facility. Mr. Stone stated that there are no interest payments included in the costs for Acocks Medical Facility, and also that there is a very small amount of depreciation represented in the costs.

Mrs. Saari mentioned that in the Total Administrative Expenses, $12,000/month for interest is included with this expense; under Nursing Department Expenses, this would include both the Physical Therapy Department and the Diversion Therapy Department. The total Laundry Department Expenses represent both the Palmer and Mather Nursing Homes. Mr. Stone mentioned that Acocks Medical Facility is getting closer control over the Dietary Department and the utilities. Mr. Stone also stated that the year-end figures for 1979 could very well change. There were some changes to eliminate some of the costs (approximately 4% lower costs).

The total number of beds at the Acocks Medical Facility is 98; the number of beds at the Mather Nursing Home is 122. Mr. Stone stated that Acocks Facility has a large nursing staff in that there are 2.7/patient, whereas Mather Nursing Home has 2.5/patient.

Mrs. Saari mentioned that the figures supplied by Acocks do not give the life expectancy for the facility.

Mrs. Saari moved to table the topic of Cost Analysis between the Mather Nursing Home and Acocks Medical Facility until Acocks can come up with the total 1979 costs for the Report of Comparative Expenses. Ms. Cheatham seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Levels of Care:

Ms. McNeill stated the general feeling is that Acocks Medical Facility does get patients that are in need of more than the basic care. She also said that if this facility can take care of this type of patient, they cannot say no. Ms. McNeill also stated that this fact was based upon the nursing time spent or provided for that particular type of patient.

Douglas Heath pointed out that there are other facilities who do have patients that are hard to take care of besides Acocks Medical Facility, such as the Norlite Nursing Home and others.

Based upon levels of care evaluations provided by the Michigan Department of Public Health, a determination of the skilled care patient versus the other types of patients has been made.

Mrs. Saari stated that there are 60% basic care patients versus 40% skilled care patients at the Mather Nursing Home; Ms. O'Boyle stated that there is a 70% basic care patient to 30% skilled patient ratio at the Acocks Medical Facility. Mrs. Saari also stated that there is a certain type of patient (tracheotomy – coma situations) that the Mather Nursing Home does not like to accept.
Mr. Stoddard questioned the Task Force Committee on two of the topics asked by the County Board of Commissioners: 1. Is there a need for skilled nursing care in the County of Marquette; and 2. What is the responsibility of the County to take care of this need?

Mrs. Saari stated that if the people of the County of Marquette want a medical care facility, the people should have it. Ms. McNeill added that the number of patients who are out-of-county is minimal.

The Task Force Committee determined that there is a need for the surplus of beds for the skilled nursing care patients.

Mr. Stoddard asked the question to the Committee as to whether the County should build another facility or if the Acoccks Medical Facility should lose the surplus of 23 beds.

Ms. Cheatham's question to the Committee was whether there is something different about the Acoccks Medical Facility that would indicate the County should stay in the business. Another point raised by Ms. O'Boyle is that should Acoccks Facility close, there is a good possibility that someone in the private sector would build another facility.

Ms. Cheatham questioned the committee whether the public could get the services in the private sector as they do now from the Acoccks Medical Facility and the reply was affirmative.

Mrs. Saari stated that a Certificate of Need is a requirement for the Federal and State Programs (Medicare and Medicaid).

Mr. Heath pointed out that the County Medical Facility (Acoccks) is no different than the nursing home in providing patient care.

Mr. Stone stated that the patient reimbursement rate at the Acoccks Medical Facility is $35.70; the patient reimbursement rate at the Mather Nursing Home is $32.20, which excludes the cost for prescription drugs. Mr. Stoddard asked Mr. Stone how the reimbursement rate for the patient is determined. Mr. Stone mentioned that this rate is based upon what the various programs will accept (allow).

Mr. Stoddard posed a question as to whether Acoccks Medical Facility will be running a deficit that the County of Marquette is going to have to cover. Ms. McNeill also questioned why the County of Marquette would have to pay out money for a County facility, and in turn how much of this money is contributed to the actual facility. Mr. Stoddard questioned that if the County does have a role to take care of the need for skilled nursing care, what is the most cost efficient way to deal with this. Ms. Cheatham suggested that information should be gathered together in regards to the costs for Acoccks Medical Facility, and make the public aware of what it is costing them, and also the difference between the private sector and the medical care facility. Ms. Cheatham also mentioned that she feels the services of this medical care facility could be provided by the private sector.

Mr. Stoddard wondered whether the County should begin to build a new medical facility or should the County phase out the existing facility. Mrs. Saari felt that the people of Marquette County should make this decision. Mr. Stoddard also questioned whether there was something different about the Acoccks Medical Facility that means the County should maintain it, and also are there patients that Acoccks Medical Facility takes that the private sector would not.

Mrs. Saari mentioned, for the Committee's information, that there are seven medical care facilities in the Upper Peninsula, 40 total in the State of Michigan.
Mr. Stoddard posed a question to the Committee members as to whether or not the County of Marquette could pay the remainder (balance) of the costs in the case of the hard-to-care-for patients. Mr. Heath stated that this is against State Law to do this.

Mrs. Saari mentioned that the Mather Nursing Home will have to look at the total budget to see how the money is coming in, in reference to the hard-to-care-for patient. She also mentioned that approximately one patient/year may come under this category.

Mr. Stoddard stated that by losing the 23 surplus beds, this would mean a more inefficient facility, and a higher per patient load.

Ms. Cheatham stated that it was not this Committee's place to form opinions to make the decisions.

Mr. Stone was asked by various Committee members what the amount would be that Acock's Medical Facility would need to cover expenses. Mr. Stone replied by saying that this facility would need an additional $200,000, above and beyond the private-pay patients, and the Medicare and Medicaid Programs.

Mrs. Saari mentioned that the Committee should meet with Dr. Potter, Director of the Marquette County Health Department, in order to determine the levels of care for the skilled and basic care patients. She also recommended that Dr. Potter, as well as Kathy Snievly, and various other nurses from other counties, who have been doing evaluations in the skilled and basic patient care, be present at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Time Table:

Ms. McNeill questioned the Committee as to how often they should meet. Ms. O'Boyle mentioned the Skilled Nursing Task Force should get together to meet at the end of February. Mr. Stoddard, now speaking for Mr. Hogan, stated that Mr. Hogan would not be able to meet in the afternoons. The Task Force then decided upon February 26, 1980, at 9:00 a.m., as the next meeting date, with the alternate date set at February 25, 1980.

Public Hearing:

This topic will be tabled until the next meeting of the Skilled Nursing Task Force.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment at this time.

Communications:

There were no communications at this time.

Announcements:

Ms. McNeill mentioned that a radio station would like to have some comments from the Task Force, and her reply to this was that she would mention to them that the Task Force has established a need for the surplus beds.

Being there was no further business to discuss, Mrs. Saari moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Stoddard seconded. The vote was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.
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.
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 it's hard for them to change environments.

The task force doesn't have any figures on how many 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 Acoks or have a private party develop the beds, they will still lose fifty-seven beds. Donna O'Boyle asked if the excess space at Acoks was useable 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 Acoks 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 Acoks 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 Acoks 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.
SKILLED NURSING CARE TASK FORCE
NOVEMBER 27, 1979
2:00 P.M.
ROOM 227

PRESENT: Larry Stone, Administrator, Acocks
        Everett Hogan, Commission on Aging
        Ilonka McNeill, Citizens for Better Care
        Art Streeter, U. P. Health Systems Agency, Inc.
        Diane O'Boyle, County Health Department
        H. A. Ziel, Michigan Department of Public Health

Larry Stone called the meeting to order. He said that three questions
were being put to the committee by the Environment, Lands and Building
Committee: (1) determine what need there is for skilled nursing services
within the county; (2) if there is a need, what is the county role in
providing the services; and (3) if the county has a role, what is the most
effective way to provide the services.

He then suggested the committee should elect a proper chairperson.
Everyone agreed that a person from an organization outside the county
would be the best person to elect as chairperson. Art Streeter nominated
Ilonka McNeill, Everett Hogan seconded the nomination and Ilonka McNeill
was elected chairperson.

Dr. Ziel then spoke to the committee on the need of skilled nursing care
in Marquette County. He asked the committee to look at nursing care in
general not specifically at skilled nursing care. He said most facilities
provide all phases of nursing care, not just skilled nursing care. He
said most facilities are basically the same, that the personnel and
equipment available are what makes the difference. He then passed out
printed data to the members of the committee and proceeded to discuss
the information with them. He said they shouldn't plan skilled nursing
care facilities, they should plan nursing care facilities and let the
demand and need determine what they will be. He stated that health
facility planning is difficult because factors change. He said a big
question the committee will have to answer is what do we do in Marquette
County is the Acocks facility closes and causes a shortage of beds. Dr.
Ziel stated that he has been into most of the health care facilities
in the U.P. and what strikes him is that many patients who have been
admitted to facilities are made ill and dependent on care. If they had
not been put into nursing homes and put into homes for the aged instead,
they wouldn't still be in nursing homes today. He feels that Marquette
County is in need of more homes for the aged, where nursing care is
available but where people are still somewhat self sufficient.

Mr. Streeter asked if there has been an engineering study done lately on
Acocks. Larry Stone said the study has been done and it's on file with
the board of commissioners. Larry Stone said the study showed that the
facility has enough room, but the room available is not being used
effectively. He said he would make a copy of the study for Mr. Streeter.

Mr. Streeter asked Ilonka McNeill if she would like them to submit items
for the agenda of the next meeting. She said that she would like them to
submit items for the agenda.

The committee decided to have meetings once a month.

Mr. Streeter made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Diane O'Boyle seconded
the motion and the meeting was adjourned.