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## Healthcare Subcommittee Minutes

5-19-21

### Members Attending:

Alan Beatty            Joe Ingemi            Geoff Dorsey

Minutes from the prior meeting were briefly discussed. Motion to approve the minutes from the February meeting made by Alan Beatty and seconded by Geoff Dorsey. Meeting minutes were approved.

(Director Kuhn noted that the meeting attendance might be smaller because of some technical issues related to the video system.)

Director Kuhn stated that the meeting may be somewhat shorter because of the technical difficulties.

Alan Beatty of Shore Memorial stated that in recent weeks they had been more involved in exploring the scaled apprenticeship offered by Atlantic Cape Community College for Medical Assistants. There was discussion about starting a new cohort in May but wasn't sure that there were enough students. Planning on referring for September group.

At the request of Joe Ingemi, Alan explained the duties and responsibilities of the Medical Assistant position. There was a brief discussion about the current competitive nature of salaries. There was continuing conversations about the need for medical assistants and the growing need for nursing assistants. Alan Beatty stated that nursing homes require certification, the hospitals are not. But all are competing for the same candidates.

Discussed the issues around new nursing home development. Concern was raised regarding nursing home facilities who are hiring candidates without certification. Director Kuhn questioned the process of hiring without certification. Alan Beatty stated that waiver was provided because of the pandemic.

Geoff Dorsey discussed the possibility of using continuing education. Director Kuhn explained the purpose of workforce development training as it relates to Certified Nursing Assistant.

Alan Beatty stated that the hospitals do not require the certification, but periodically they will request training from some of the private career schools or community college.

The group discussed the challenges of hiring and retaining certified nursing assistants. Geoff Dorsey asked if there were any kind of assistance for people on social security who cannot afford home health aides. Joe suggested that he contact Catholic Charities for assistance.

There was brief discussion about the pharmacy tech position. Alan Beatty stated that there is limited need for that position currently, so the limited demand does not justify the program.

There was also mention of the need for surgical technicians and sterile processing. Research would be done on where there may be training programs that provide that certification.

The director noted that many questions remain unanswered because of the inadequate attendance for the meeting. The director stated that he would schedule a makeup meeting to address some of the issues raised during the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 3:45pm