

ACTON BOARD OF HEALTH

MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 29, 1989



BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: George Emmons, Joe Glannon, Gerhard Heinrich

STAFF PRESENT: Doug Halley, Julia Stevens, Florence Ross, Terry Calderaro, and Jessie Kennan

OTHERS PRESENT: Richard Burtt

Mr. Burtt appeared before the Board to appeal the Nursing Service's decision to discontinue the services being given to Mrs. Templeman. The Nursing Service recently reassessed the care being given to Mrs. Templeman and determined that the care necessary was beyond the scope of Nursing and Home Health care normally given to patients under the Nursing Service's care. Additionally, the Nursing Service was concerned because Mrs. Templeman becomes disoriented very easily when left unattended and receives no other than through the Nursing Service during the week. Concern was also stated with the inability of the service to reach Mr. Burtt at times.

Mr. Burtt stated he could be reached 24 hours a day. He asserted that it was the Nursing Service that required the additional hours for Mrs. Templeman. He also stated that Mrs. Templeman was reevaluated by Dr. Greene in 1988 and found to be well enough to stay at home. Mrs. Templeman prepares her own meals and has successfully made the transition since the death of her husband. Mr. Burtt has arranged for Meals on Wheels to deliver to Mrs. Templeman.

Mr. Burtt stated that the Nursing Service approved the current four visits per week by the Home Health Aide. The Nurse's primary purpose, as he saw it, was to put pills in a container for Mrs. Templeman. Mr. Burtt withheld payment to the Nursing Service for three months while he sought to obtain Medicare benefits. Mrs. Templeman has since been denied and Mr. Burtt has paid the outstanding bill but intends to appeal the Medicare decision. Mr. Burtt stated that it was only after his insistence that the Nursing Service applied for Medicare benefits and it was his belief that one hour per day was not a burden to the Nursing Service.

In Mr. Burtt's view the entire problem was a financial one. He asserted that financial data sheets were filed in 85 and 86. A previous contract was signed between Mrs. Templeman and the Nursing Service that set the Nursing Service rate at \$10.00 per hour. The fee is now \$25.00 per hour which Mr. Burtt finds to be beyond Mrs. Templeman's means.

Terry Calderaro stated to the Board that she sees Mrs. Templeman once a week. It is her observation that the patient is physically fine but mentally cannot cope. Mrs. Templeman refuses to leave her home because she is frightened. Mrs. Calderaro stated that the patient needs to have interaction with other people for a large portion of the day. Many of the duties performed by the Home Health Aide should be done by a significant other.

Jessie Kennan stated that Mrs. Templeman is very forgetful to the point of forgetting Jessie's name, even though she sees Jesse three times a week. Ms. Kennan finds the best way to handle Mrs. Templeman is to just go ahead and do what needs to be done without asking Mrs. Templeman. There has been an instance in the past when the patient refused to supply the money for her own food shopping. Mrs. Templeman is extremely suspicious.

A local church previously gave help but they have been alienated by Mrs. Templeman. A neighbor no longer visits Mrs. Templeman because she feels Mr. Burtt does not approve.

Ms. Stevens suggested that Mr. Burtt should seek to have someone sleep overnight with Mrs. Templeman. Nursing visits should be limited to once per week and Home Health aides to twice a week with duties consisting of routine personal care, grooming, application of medicine and checking of food supply.

The Board noted a recent letter written by Dr. Greene which indicated that Mrs. Templeman's care was of concern to him. Mr. Glannon stated that the Board should give heavy consideration to Dr. Greene's recommendation.

Mr. Burtt agreed to seek a person to see Mrs. Templeman on a more regular basis. Mr. Burtt also stated that he preferred to have a Home Health Aide visit three times a week and a nurse visit once per month. He protested the Board's desire to place conditions on him as a stipulation to continue service to Mrs. Templeman.

Joe Glannon moved to continue to provide services to Mrs. Templeman with the following conditions:

1. Mrs. Templeman shall receive once per month skilled nursing care and three times a week home health care.
2. Mr. Burtt will establish a charge account at a local pharmacy that the nurses can use to purchase prescribed medication for Mrs. Templeman.
3. Mr. Burtt will arrange, with a third party, for all food shopping for Mrs. Templeman.
4. Mr. Burtt will arrange for Mrs. Templeman to have a yearly check-up with Dr. Greene and Dr. Gallagher.
5. The Nursing Service in its monthly skilled nursing care visit will evaluate Mrs. Templeman's condition and make recommendations as to additional medical service needed.
6. Mr. Burtt will be responsible for Mrs. Templeman's needs regarding trash removal, laundry and all other home services not provided by the Nursing Service's Home Health Aide.
7. Mr. Burtt will arrange for a Housekeeper or Companion to visit Mrs. Templeman once every day for at least one hour per visit and twice on days when A.P.H.N.S. is not scheduled for a visit.

Mr. Heinrich seconded. The Board unanimously voted in favor. In addition, the Board decided to review this case in three months and set aside the fourth Monday in June as being the time for that review.

Mr. Glannon moved to close the meeting. Mr. Heinrich seconded. All voted in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sheryl Howe
Sheryl Howe, Secretary

Signed and Approved,

George Emmons
George Emmons, Chairman