

1000 Masonic Drive
Sewickley, PA 15143-2359
Phone: (412) 741-1400



Services also provided at:
Masonic Village at Elizabethtown
Masonic Village at Lafayette Hill
Masonic Village at Warminster

14-514

L-112

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

A COMMUNITY OF THE MASONIC VILLAGES OF THE GRAND LODGE OF PENNSYLVANIA

September 12, 2008

Ms. Gail Weidman
Office of Long-Term Care Living
Bureau of Policy and Strategic Planning
PO Box 2675
Harrisburg, PA 17105

RECEIVED
08 SEP 15 AM 10:30
BUREAU OF LTC PGMS
REFER TO _____

Dear Ms. Weidman:

My name is Robert Kocent, Executive Director, Masonic Village at Sewickley. The Masonic Village at Sewickley is a continuing care retirement community (CCRC) offering 128 nursing beds, 64 assisted living beds, and 270 retirement living units. We have been a provider of senior services since 1984. Each year we provide approximately \$5.2 million dollars in charitable and un-reimbursed Medicare and Medicaid services to our residents. I am extremely proud of our mission-driven organization, and the good we have done for so many unable to pay for the cost of their care. It is extremely troubling to me that we will now have new, imposed regulations for us to continue to be called assisted living. Close to 50% of our residents in assisted living are unable to pay for the cost of their care. This percentage is extremely high as we offer assisted living on a first come, first served basis, for those who need assistance regardless of their ability to pay. We are continually faced with increased costs for providing services. One of my concerns with these regulations is that they are creating unnecessary additional costs for us, which will ultimately limit our ability to continue to offer assisted living services to those unable to pay for the cost of their care.

Proposed regulation 2800.11—Procedural Requirements For Licensure Or Approval Of Assisted Living Residences

Currently our annual licensing fee for our personal care license is \$30.00. Under the new assisted living regulations it would be \$7,220, which is a 24,000% increase. This is the equivalent of 25% of one nursing assistant's wages.

2800.56—Administrator Staffing

This regulation doubles the number of hours the administrator must be present in the residence and does not account for vacations, holidays, and personal time, instead requiring the administrator's replacement of such hours to have the same training requirements as the administrator. This additional cost for training a second administrator to be available when the primary administrator is off, will cost us several thousand dollars per year since annual hours of training consist of at least 24 Department of Public Welfare approved hours. This is an unreasonable requirement for replacing the administrator during benefit time away from the job.

2800.96—First Aid Kit

It is unreasonable for a first aid kit to include an automatic electronic defibrillation (AED) device in first aid kits throughout the facility as these units should be separate from locations for first aid kits.

2800.131—Fire Extinguishers

Fire extinguishers, when used properly, are a great asset to extinguishing fires in their early stages. Here at the Masonic Village at Sewickley we previously put fire extinguishers in each one of our assisted living units only to realize it was not practical or useful for our seniors who, in most cases, were unable to manage an extinguisher on their own. We have since removed those extinguishers as we realized they were an impediment to the safety of our residents since they were unable to be adequately trained on the use of the extinguisher. Our procedures require staff to respond quickly and extinguish fires in the early stages if possible.

2800.227—Development of the Support Plan

Each resident requiring services shall have a written support plan that a licensed practical nurse (LPN) under the supervision of a registered nurse (RN) shall review and approve. It is not clinically necessary in the completion of a support plan that an RN supervise this development. Additional unnecessary RN time to provide this costs thousands of dollars for this additional oversight.

2800.225—Initial and Annual Assessment

The initial and annual assessment also requires the administrator or licensed practical nurse to be under the supervision of a registered nurse when completing assessments. This also significantly drives up the cost of care in providing this supervision when it is not clinically necessary.

Thank you for your consideration of my concerns regarding the proposed assisted living licensure regulations.

Sincerely,



Robert Kocent
Executive Director, Masonic Village at Sewickley