

WAYNE COUNTY NURSING HOME
1529 Nye Road
Lyons, New York 14489

NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT: Margaret T. Haroff
Administrator
MTHaroff@Co.Wayne.NY.US
(315) 946- 5673

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wayne County Nursing Home Achieves Positive Cash Flow within four months of moving to new facility

Lyons, New York, October 7, 2005 --- Despite a recent county projection of a budget shortfall for 2006, the Wayne County Nursing Home has already achieved a positive cash flow position for September 2005 [and will do so again in October](#), Margaret Haroff, Administrator for the WCNH facility, announced today.

The \$25.7 million, state-of-the-art facility opened at its new location on Nye Road in Lyons in May 2005. Like other [county facilities for Needed Services](#) in surrounding counties such as Monroe and Ontario, WCNH is looking to enhance its financial viability despite current, tough economic hurdles.

"We're not out of the woods yet," says Haroff, "but we're making very good progress." Haroff cites the joint memorandum of October 3, 2005 by the New York Association of Homes and Services for the Aging (NYAHSAs), the Healthcare Association of New York State (HANYS), and the NYS Health Facilities Association, Inc. (NYSHFA), which details the enormous challenges faced by all of New York's nursing homes.

According to the Joint Association Task Force of Nursing Home Reimbursement, Medicaid supports the care of 78 percent of nursing home residents in New York State, yet on average, reimburses nursing homes \$21 less per day than what it costs to provide care. The current reimbursement system uses a 22-year old "base year" to determine reimbursement costs, the oldest base year in the country. New York ranked first among 36 states in total estimated Medicaid shortfalls. This means that for every ten residents of a nursing home on Medicaid, the nursing home does not receive any payment for one of them.

An analysis of the 2001- 2003 Nursing Home financials showed that every public home in New York State in the study lost money.

Added to these factors are a widespread shortage of nurses and paraprofessional caregivers, skyrocketing costs for drugs, liability insurance, utilities, and paying temporary nursing agencies because of the health care workforce shortage, according to the Task Force.

Consequently, being able to achieve a positive cash flow position so soon is a notable accomplishment, Haroff says. "We're able to maintain our commitment to break even or better with no reduction in services. We serve some of the most fragile, vulnerable population in our communities, along with an extended population of caregivers and families. Our residents once made major contributions to our communities in careers, volunteering, our workforce, paying taxes, raising families -- and still are not able to afford private care. Without our ability to provide cutting-edge practices and medical care, three-quarters of nursing home residents on Medicaid would have no place to go. They'd end up dying alone, or dependent on families that are often already physically, emotionally and financially overwhelmed by their care, with no other resources but Social Services."

In the case of Wayne County Nursing Home, and other county homes like it, eliminating a line item on a budget carries an ultimate cost of a devastating domino effect on human services and quality of life for the entire community, Haroff points out.

"We've focused on operations, and been enormously aided by skilled, dedicated volunteers who share our commitment to excellence," says Haroff. "So to be able to produce a positive financial effect from the starting block is gratifying. We know we still have a mountain to climb, but we're well equipped."

Haroff will meet with Senator Charles Schumer (R? D?) on Wednesday, October 12, to -

The Wayne County Nursing Home, a public facility licensed by the New York State Department of Health, is a 190 bed skilled nursing facility located at 1529 Nye Road,

Lyons, New York. It was established 168 years ago in 1830 by the County Board of Supervisors to provide care to residents in need.

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