

## Resident Health Committee

January 5, 2024

*Accepted 2/2/24*

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Ron Karpick and the December 1, 2023 minutes were accepted. Mar\_T Ahrens was commended, in absentia, for serving as liaison to the Resident Council and Sally Michel was introduced as the new liaison to the Council.

### **Karen Doyle**, Associate Executive Director

1. Covid-Update of cases: Covid JN.1 is becoming the dominant strain. Everyone in GHBC, residents and team members should be vaccinated with the updated Covid vaccine, unless their personal physician advises otherwise. Home tests are valid in detecting JN.1 infection. Free Covid tests are still available <Covidtests.gov> At present all Team Members must have the latest updated Covid vaccine. As most Team Members are under Kaiser Health the possibility of Kaiser offering a vaccine clinic is being explored.
2. If a resident is diagnosed with Covid disease by a positive Covid test over the weekend and their physician is not a VHC physician, the Clinic RN will call the resident's personal physician who can prescribe Paxlovid if appropriate.
3. RSV: 5 residents in Nov. and 2 in Dec. Arexvy, GSK, with adjuvant was the vaccine administered. Additional clinics for Covid, Influenza and RSV are planned for January or February, TBA. Under consideration are GHBC's being able to administer Shingrix and the pneumococcal vaccines. Appreciation was expressed for the assertive initiative to vaccinate all residents and staff.
4. Clinic staffing update: Holly Burd, RN with 12 years of experience at the VHC has been hired. She is going through orientation and will work on Saturday and Monday. Daria Zakaryan is in process of relocating to be near family. As financial incentives for nurses, there is the Nursing Pathway Initiative, tuition assistance and student loan relief.
5. HCC Kitchen Renovations: All are complete as of December.
6. Clinic Renovation: This is scheduled within the next 5-6 months. A small waiting area may be designed within the Clinic. The extension of the Rehab Department into the current living room will create a hallway through the current waiting area.
7. Safety of Residents in Independent and Assisted Living: Team members from all GHI establishments are reviewing safety policies for clarity. Since Covid, general drills have not been consistent, though HCC conducts rounds every two hours. We are fortunate to have well trained and caring staff. If a resident of the HCC or AL is felt to be at risk wandering the individual is provided a bracelet on ankle, wrist, or walker. The bracelet is recognized by the door at the front of the building and at the Clinic. The bracelet is not recognized by other exit doors.

Assisted Living residents may move throughout the campus or community with no restrictions.

(The highest risk residents are those in Residential Living.)

8. All residents who use VHC for their medical care are encouraged to use the VHC patient portal for communications regarding lab reports, need for prescriptions, sending notes to physician. Dr. Christopher Walsh will give a talk to us in the Auditorium, TBA, explaining the process.

**Michele Zimmer-Forester**, Director of Social Work

Draft of Pet Policy: Ms. Zimmer-Forster clarified that the policy is under Administration rather than Social Work. Her role is to access the documents from the veterinarian and observe how well trained the pet is for communal living. (Pets make us healthier!)

### **Old Business:**

1) Frequency of filter changes in the HEPA units in the Resident Library- Ron Karpick will check with Jose Jordan/Tinia.

### **Other Business**

1) Health Committee Charter: The review suggested by the Resident Council was not acted upon as there were questions about one amendment. A reworked amendment will be brought to the committee in February for vote.

2. Dining on the AL floor: Dishes removed quickly decreases the interaction of the residents at meal time. Ron Karpick will discuss with this Alison Neov and report back.

3. Fees for Home Care: The \$11/hour increase in charge for Home Care assistants will be discussed with Jenny Elrod, Executive Director of Home Care.

### **Announcements/Information**

Senior Associates Program, VHC: Registration for his program costs \$65/individual and \$90/ couple. It offers complimentary hospital parking, pharmacy, food court, wellness program discounts, and Lifeline medical alert system discounts. The Washington Post articles, 12/17/23

[An alarming number of assisted-living residents die after wandering away unnoticed - Washington Post](#)

[Understaffed and neglected: How real estate investors reshaped assisted living facilities - The Washington Post](#)

[Questions to ask before choosing an assisted living facility - The Washington Post](#)

[Opinion | The dementia crisis is here. Better training can't wait. - The Washington Post](#)

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**Next meeting: Friday, February 2, 2024 at 10 AM**