

Birmingham Green Family Council
Minutes April 26, 2009

Charlotte called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm. The following were in attendance:

Charlotte, Marianne, Tim, Eva, Didi

Minutes from the March 29th meeting were approved. Treasury report:

Balance on March 29	\$398.42
Purchase of Easter candy	57.58
Balance	\$340.84

Old business centered on a lengthy discussion of questions regarding care plans that the council members would like to have addressed at the Family Day meeting on May 31st. Questions were compiled and will be sent to BGFC members as well as to Tracy prior to the meeting. They will be attached with these minutes.

During the course of the discussion, it was noted that a new staff development person is training all staff. It was suggested that she be asked to speak to the council at a future meeting so we would have an opportunity to hear how and what she trains staff for and to have a chance to ask questions.

Discussion then centered upon questions that the group would like to discuss with Karl after the Family Day meeting in May. He has agreed to speak with family council members at our meeting that will follow the general meeting. The following list of questions were formed:

1. Despite Hippa laws, is it permissible to place a short list of comfort remedies in loved ones rooms such as: Needs glasses; Put sweater on daily; Check that clothing is comfortably adjusted for sitting and standing positions.
2. Laundry concerns: Does BG replace damaged or lost clothing? What can be done to assure that all residents get back the clothing that belongs to them?
3. Stimulation: Is it possible to provide shows on the TV either on cable stations or via DVD that relate to the era that most of the residents have lived through? Also, could music of the "good old days" be piped into units' dining/recreation areas?
4. We have observed that often patients are not fed for a very long time. Why is this? It appears that during state inspections all staff is utilized to make sure that patients are fed in a timely manner. Why is this not a daily occurrence?
5. This council has chosen staff morale and better weekend activities as our goal. What do you think we can do to help with these matters at BG?

Eva has completed a new bulletin board in Times Square for nurses' week. It is very attractive. Thanks and compliments were given to her for her time to this project. Tim was thanked for getting the candy for Easter. Charlotte said that all staff was once again delighted with our efforts to make holidays a little nicer for them.

Use of the remaining grant money was then discussed. Two ideas were considered. Tim said that his wife Cathy would be willing to conduct an art class with residents interested in painting with pastels. We would purchase the supplies for this project.

Charlotte suggested that we purchase permanent white boards to be hung in the recreation areas of the units so that activities' directors would not have to use the easel type that often fall or get knocked over. Tim volunteered to check out the cost of sizeable white boards and report back at the next meeting. Permission would be needed to mount them permanently to the wall. Residents could use them during none activity times to play games such as tic-tac-toe or hangman.

Final discussion was about an off-site get-together for BGFC members. All present felt that another lunch at Anthony's would be fun. Those who attend would pay for their own lunch. This would give time for bonding among members and to find out if there are ways that we could help each other with loved ones at BG. Tentative date for the get-together is Saturday, June 6. Information will be sent via email to those on the mailing list.

A final suggestion was made for the May 31st meeting. TheBGFC meeting should be centered only on our discussion with Karl. All present agreed. Only follow-up announcements will be made regarding use of the remaining funds and the June get-together.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm