

From: Michelle Work [REDACTED]
Date: Mon, Aug 3, 2020 at 2:37 AM

Subject: Re: NYS Senate Residential Facilities & COVID-19 Public Hearings

When the Garden of Eden Alp was informed in March 2020 by various NYS and NYS health organizations that there was an outbreak of Covid-19 in NY. The following steps were taken to protect the Indians staff of the facility

The facility restricted all visitors into the facility immediately.

The facility did not accept any new admissions into the facility until July.

The facilities dietary department started to use disposable plate, cups and flatware during meal service. Meal were brought to individuals rooms starting in May.

The facilities housekeeping staff continually clean all areas with a mixture of bleach and water.

In March due to the conflicting information from various health organizations regarding who should or should not wear masks staff were the only ones mandated to wear masks while working in the facility. Currently all individuals who reside in the facility are encouraged to wear masks while out of their bedrooms.

The administration repeatedly filled out forms requesting PPE supplies when it was being offered by local authorities. The facility was repeatedly informed that the facility was not deemed essential therefore would not be getting PPE. The facility had already started to purchase masks, gloves and disinfectant supplies from various suppliers but, the amount of supplies available were reduced due to the demand. The facility had a very difficult time purchasing hand sanitizer stations to be put on every floor and was not able to receive them until May from a supplier. The facility purchased individual bottles of hand sanitizer for the staff to have on hand and walk around with to use as well as offer to individuals.

In early March the facility started to dispense medication by floor to individuals to attempt to reduce individuals being together outside of their rooms. By the Beginning of April the facility was dispensing medication in individuals rooms to try stop the spread of the virus amongst the facility staff and residents.

The facility first started to educated the staff in February of the Covid-19. Facility staff co to ur to be educated regarding Covid-19 as well as the facilities policy and procedures.

The facility removed chairs from common areas, put up signs reminding individuals to stay 6 feet apart as well as staff verbally reminding individuals in an attempt to encourage social distancing.

Anyone showing any sign of illness was seen by either the RN of the CHHA and or the facility PCP who directed the individuals plan of care. In the beginning of March all individuals were being sent to the local emergency rooms to ensure their medical needs were properly met. If the individual had a roommate and bathroom mates they were directed to stay in their room and self isolate for a minimum of 14-days. Their meals would be served in their rooms and the RN would monitor them daily and the PCP would see them in their rooms when he was in the facility. The RN would inform the PCP and administration of the individuals status daily and adjustments in the plan of care would be made if required. The facility policy and procedure was to have individuals who may have been in contact with another individual who may have signs and/symptoms to self isolate. The administration started to do contact tracing of the individuals who went to the er's and started to have individuals self isolate and be monitored by the medical team.

At one point the facilities administration was advised to not send individuals to the local er's but, due to the fact that the Garden of Eden ALP is not a medical facility and is not allowed to have certain medical supplies in the facility like oxygen it was seen that individuals who showed signs and or symptoms of the virus were sent to the er for proper medical attention. If the individual were tested positive arrangements were made with NH who could proper care for those individuals short term care until they could return back to the ALP.

I am sure there is so much more that the facilities staff did to ensure the safety and well-being of the individuals who reside at the Garden of Eden ALP. I hope this is helpful and what you we're looking for.