

ACTON *Nursing* SERVICES



Acton Nursing Service
Enterprise Fund

Board of Selectman Meeting
May 5, 2014



Acton 2020 Implementation Plan

- ❖ Evaluate the Acton Nursing Service to determine the most appropriate way of delivering this service, in light of an increasing elderly population.



Nursing Service Enterprise Fund

❖ Economic

- Pro
 - Quality care can be maintained regardless of reimbursement status
- Con
 - Unstable environment with the Affordable Care Act
 - Reimbursements cannot meet expenses
 - Cost CAN and HAVE been controlled to reduce the gap but it will not close the gap.
 - At risk Fund Balance

❖ Control

- Pro
 - Only 1 of 2 communities that have Community based program

❖ Care

- Pro
 - Quality care can be maintained regardless of reimbursement status
 - At risk population have access to care and are less likely to fall out of the “safety net”
 - On-staff medical team for emergencies/shelters
 - Collaboration with emergency personnel & community service departments to identify, monitor and assist those in need

ACTON *Nursing* SERVICES



Enterprise Fund No Longer Functions As an Effective Model For Providing Nursing Care To Acton Citizens

There are Alternatives To Be
Considered



Alternative Models

❖ Agency Shut Down

- Cease Visiting Nursing Care

❖ Acquisition

- Transition to Private Entity

❖ General Fund

- Combine the Enterprise Nursing Service Functions with Public Health Budget



Option 1 – Agency Shut Down

❖ Economic

- Pro - Elimination of Enterprise Fund and risks of deficits
- Con - Potential increase in 911 calls
- Dependence on “for profit” private agencies
 - Acton’s uninsured
 - “at-risk” population

❖ Control

- Pro - Town chooses it’s own Course of Action
- Con - Acton loses control of community-focused service

❖ Care

- Con - Acton loses access to its own HomeCare Elite Service
- Service reduction for Acton’s “at-risk” residents



Option 1 - Additional Impact

- ❖ An end of 91 years of a Town Dedicated Visiting Nursing Service
- ❖ Continuance of Free Care would require a contract with another agency
- ❖ Reduction in the Town's "Safety Net"
- ❖ Retention of state mandated Public Health Nursing
- ❖ Employees would be laid off (anticipated 4.5 FTE's)



Option 2 – Transition to Privatization

❖ Economic

- Pro - Removed Enterprise Fund from Town Budget
- Con - Contractual Agreement needed for Public Health
- Dependence on other agencies
 - Acton's uninsured
 - “at-risk” population

❖ Control

- Pro - New agreement could allow for some Acton input/controls
- Con - Limited controls
- No guarantee for future focused services for Acton Residents

❖ Care

- Pro - Review respected agencies with similar visions
- Con - No guarantee of a HomeCare Elite status agency
- No control over quality care



Option 2 – Additional Impacts

- ❖ Employees may transition to new entity after interview process
- ❖ Continuation of Free Care would require and outside contract
- ❖ Weakening of the Town’s “Safety Net”
- ❖ Acton Nursing Service name may continue



Option 3 – General Fund Budget

❖ Economic

- Pro - Decreased financial investment for new program model
- Con - Continue to assume fiscal responsibility

❖ Control

- Pro - Maintain control of services with community focus that is based on the Vision of the Acton Nursing Service

❖ Care

- Pro - Continue to protect Acton's "at risk" population on all socioeconomic levels



Option 3 – Additional Impacts

- ❖ Acton Nursing Service retains Name and Vision
- ❖ Retain crucial assistance and oversight to those in need
- ❖ Continuation of Free Care to the at risk population
- ❖ Public Health and Enterprise Budgets will be closely aligned to meet the citizens needs
- ❖ Retention of experienced and dedicated staff



Acton Town Survey 2013

University of Massachusetts Lowell

- ❖ “The Quality of services are one of the top three reasons that citizens report moving to/deciding to remain in Acton.”
 - “How do you rate the quality and performance of each of the following town services and programs?”

- ❖ Public Health/Nursing Service rated 84.1% based on Excellent/Good rating

*Response rate of 39.67%.



Future of the Nursing Service

BoS Decision

- ❖ Evaluate the (3) proposed options and determine the most appropriate/effective way of delivering quality services to the Citizens of Acton by the August 11th BoS Meeting