

Improving Pennsylvania's Nursing Homes
PA Senate Democratic Policy Committee Hearing
June 2, 2021

Nursing Home Inspection Process

Background

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Executive Director (since 2004)
Kane Community Living Center

The Kane Community Living Centers are four (4) nursing facilities owned and operated by Allegheny County. There are 1166 dually certified (Medicare and Medical Assistance) beds throughout the four Centers.

The Centers have 21 nursing units including several units providing specialty services. We provide care for residents with various needs including memory care, behavioral needs, substance use disorders and short-term rehabilitation in specialty care units. A summary of the specialty care units is attached.

Talking Points

- Regulations enforced by the PA DOH are in large part federal regulations
- We recognize and appreciate the need for regulatory oversight
- Although the regulations are fairly well defined, the survey/inspection, in the end, is a subjective view by the person doing the inspection. Our quality improvement manager describes it as a Rorschach test where the surveyor sees what they want to see rather than an objective fact-driven, measurable process.
- What is lacking in the process is an effort to make the survey/inspection process a collaborative process

- No effort to assist with quality improvement or offering solutions to problems that might be identified during a survey
- The final survey report focuses on deficiencies but does not point to what the organization is doing well, what they should continue doing, what they should stop doing, and recommendations to move forward to become a quality organization.
- Overall, the process is punitive vs consultative. The survey itself encompasses a set of criteria that tell organizations where and in what way, they are deficient - but does not share best practices and recommendations on how to proceed to be successful.
- For nursing homes the survey process is a dreaded experience, when it should be a welcomed opportunity to learn, grow and improve.
- One example of a collaborative effort that was well received and successful was the Regional Response Health Collaborative program that was created to support long-term care facilities during the COVID-19 pandemic. That program provided infection control support and ended at the end of 2020. A similar effort that would be available to nursing homes to address specific quality improvement initiatives would be a welcome support.

Kane Community Living Centers

Kane – Glen Hazel

Five Units – 255 Licensed beds

1. Unit 2A – 60 beds – Long/short term nursing care.
 2. Unit 2B – 60 beds – Long/short term nursing care.
 3. Unit 3B – 45 beds – Memory care/dementia. Opened 2002.
 4. Unit 4A – 45 beds – Dementia with behaviors. Opened 2004.
 5. Unit 4B – 45 beds – Behavior unit. Opened 2017.
- (Adjacent – 12 independent senior living apartments)

Kane – Scott

Six Units – 311 Licensed beds

1. Unit 2A – 26 beds – Transitional Care (Short stay-therapy). Opened 2008.
2. Unit 2B – 60 beds – Long/short term nursing care.
3. Unit 3A – 60 beds – Long/short term nursing care.
4. Unit 3B – 60 beds – Long/short term nursing care.
5. Unit 4A – 45 beds – Memory care/dementia. Opened 2014.
6. Unit 4B – 60 beds – Long/short term nursing care.

Kane – McKeesport

Six Units – 360 Licensed beds

1. Unit 2A – 60 beds – Long/short term nursing care.
2. Unit 2B – 60 beds – Long/short term nursing care.
3. Unit 3A – 60 beds – Long/short term nursing care.
4. Unit 3B – 60 beds – Nursing care with substance use disorder. Opened 2018.
5. Unit 4A – 60 beds – Long/short term nursing care.
6. Unit 4B – 60 beds – Long/short term nursing care.

Kane – Ross

Four Units – 240 Licensed beds

1. Unit 2E – 60 beds – Long/short term nursing care.
 2. Unit 2W – 60 beds – Long/short term nursing care.
 3. Unit 3E – 60 beds – Long/short term nursing care.
 4. Unit 3W – 60 beds – Long/short term nursing care.
- (Fourth floor of nursing facility building – 37 independent senior living apartments)
(Additional on-campus building – 60 independent senior living apartments)

Kane Community Living Centers Specialty Care Units

1. Glen Hazel - Kane Glen Haven - 2002

45 bed memory care/dementia unit. Designed for residents with dementia and memory care issues. The Glen Haven unit provides a safe environment for residents who suffer from various degrees of memory loss. This unit is a collaboration between Kane and The Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic of UPMC.

2. Glen Hazel - Kane Glen Harbor - 2004

45 bed dementia with behaviors unit. This unit is intended for residents with dementia and behavioral issues resulting from various neurological concerns. Glen Harbor provides a calm, safe environment for residents in need of a more structured environment. This unit is a collaboration between Kane and The Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic of UPMC.

3. Scott - Transitional Care Unit - 2008

26 bed unit therapy/rehab unit. This unit is intended for short stays and more intensive therapy. The floor has all private rooms including, TV's, phones and private bathrooms. The aim of the unit is to get the residents back on their feet and home ASAP. This unit is made possible by the close relationship with Kane and St. Clair Hospital.

4. Scott - Memory Care Unit - 2014

45 bed memory care/dementia unit. The Memory Care Unit at Scott cares for residents with dementia who require more attention than a typical nursing home resident. This unit is a collaboration between Kane and The Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic of UPMC.

5. Glen Hazel - Kane Glen Meadows - 2017

45 bed behavioral unit. This unit provides specialized services for patients exhibiting neurological and psychiatric issues. Residents can have their specific needs met in a variety of ways in one care setting. This unit is a collaboration between Kane and The Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic of UPMC.

6. McKeesport - Specialized Care Unit - 2018

45 bed substance use disorder unit. This unit is designed for persons who are clinically eligible for skilled nursing care who also have a co-existing substance use disorder. The unit was created in response to the difficulties local hospitals have finding skilled nursing facilities able to accept those patients. The unit is a partnership between Kane, The Allegheny Health Network, Highmark and Gateway Health Plan.