Optimizing Our Specialty Bed and Specialty Mattresses

Overview
Susquehanna Health Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation Center is facing the challenge of efficiently and effectively keeping track of the beds and mattresses in use and in storage at their facility. Because they provide specialized care, there are various bed and mattress combinations that are used to meet the specifications of the individual patient. This causes a constant variation in beds that are used throughout the center, including some that need to be rented, and makes it difficult for the staff to keep an updated inventory. A return on investments needs to be completed to weigh the company’s options in moving forward to a more efficient and effective future.

Objectives
The objective of this project is to first take inventory of all beds and mattresses and develop a plan to organize them in the storeroom. The second objective is to develop a system which allows the staff to keep track of all beds and mattresses throughout the facility. The final objective of this project is to conduct an analysis of the rental history and determine a recommendation of inventory of bed frames that should be purchased or rented.

Approach
· An initial visit to the sponsor took place in order to properly gather their needs and requirements for the objectives listed above. It also allowed the team to understand the system they were working to improve.
· For the storage room layout, communication between maintenance, the sponsor and the team was crucial in determining the optimal design. Multiple layouts were designed and discussed before choosing a final recommendation.
· For the tracking system, calls were set up with various companies that supplied the technology that met the sponsor’s needs. Additional research was done to determine how long implementation actions would take and the costs.
· For the rental analysis, rental history was collected for the past 18 months. The highest contributing factors to the rental costs were determined and a break-even analysis was completed. This analysis developed a price range for the sponsor to follow as a guide when deciding to purchase a new bed or continue to rent.

Outcomes
· A final layout was recommended to increase the accessibility and ease of manoeuvring of beds and mattresses.
· An RFID tagging system was recommended to track the beds and mattresses at a low cost and easy implementation.
· A break-even price was calculated for the items with the highest usage and cost to determine if the sponsor should continue to rent a specialty bed or purchase one out right.