

Citizens Health Advisory Council

www.chaclaplata.org

Vision

Health care in our community will emphasize preventive health care, will be adequately funded and staffed, will reach those not receiving care, and community members will take responsibility for their own health and the health of others.

The Citizens Health Advisory Council (CHAC) is a group of concerned health care providers, community leaders and volunteers who came together as a result of the first La Plata County Community Summit in 2001. At that time, "access to health care" was listed as a significant county-wide priority and a charge was given to form a diverse group to address this priority. So, the CHAC formed in 2001 and has been active ever since. The CHAC meets the first Friday of each month. Meetings are open to everyone. The CHAC is presently serving as an information clearinghouse and as a solution-oriented "think tank" for health care issues. The CHAC is helping give input and guidance to the Community Health Care Capacity Project in partnership with a newly-formed steering committee (Health Services Steering Committee). The CHAC will play an integral role in helping develop the La Plata County Health Care Strategic Plan set to be completed by the end of 2010.

Accomplishments

- Organizing a monthly county-wide forum (via CHAC meetings) and an Email Network for interested citizens, health care providers and stakeholders to share information, plan, and take actions to address key county-wide health care issues.
- Establishing, funding and maintaining an access to health care Web Site: (www.chaclaplata.org).
- Publishing "*A Picture of Health Care in La Plata County*" as a source of information on health care trends, data, challenges and recommended solutions.
- Leading and facilitating, with many partners, a number of health care forums, trainings and/or community meetings to educate citizens and elected officials about health care issues and reforms; to mobilize advocacy efforts; and to link with state and federal organizations.
- Helped launch and offer momentum to the Crossroads Acute Treatment Center Task Force which led to establishment of this needed mental health service in our county.
- Supported statewide health care initiatives such as the Amendment 35 Tobacco Tax and Referendum C&D through endorsements and communications.
- Organized a campaign for a Health Service District which went to ballot in May 2006. This measure was defeated by voters but raised important health care issues, challenges and potential solutions.
- Appointed two CHAC representatives to serve on the Health Services Steering Committee.

If you wish to donate to the CHAC, please send a check to: Community Foundation Serving Southwest Colorado, P.O. Box 1673, Durango, Colorado 81302. Donations are tax deductible.

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