

CHAC Meeting Notes
July 6, 2007

Present: Jill Patton, Kip Boyd, Bill Warren, Lynn Westberg, Jenny Wren, Niles Bruno, Eileen Wasserbach, Margaret Sterner, Sheila Casey, Tony Demond, Bern Heath, Bob Juskevich, Missy Rodey

- I. Introductions
- II. June 2007 Meeting notes: approved as distributed
- III. CHAC leadership: Jill announced that Marsha has completed her sabbatical and will be rejoining the group. Monthly leadership of CHAC meetings will rotate among Jill, Missy and Marsha. If anyone else would like to lead an upcoming meeting, he/she is encouraged to do so. Just let any of the three above mentioned know.
- IV. Report on 208 Commission: Lynn Westberg gave an update on the activities of the Blue Ribbon Commission for Health Care Reform which was created by the 2006 Colorado State legislature. The commission is non-partisan and is charged with making recommendations for health care reform to the legislature by January 31st, 2008. They will bring perspective to four reform models, and possibly a fifth. An attempt is being made to make the review broad based. There will soon be a two-day meeting soon in addition to a telephone conference which anyone who is interested may access by getting the information from Lynn. Bern reported on the four task forces of the 208 Commission: rural, business, special populations, and providers. He sits on the rural task force which will contribute to the work of the Commission, providing insight on our particular set of concerns. Metropolitan areas have most difficulty with insurance issues; rural areas have more difficulty with access issues.
- V. Effect of HPSA designation: The possible effects of the Health Provider Shortage Area designation recently received by La Plata County were discussed. It is felt there will be no short term impact, but allow for the formation of Rural Health Clinics by groups interested in doing so in order to receive the benefits associated, such as better reimbursement for certain payer groups, loan repayment program, etc. It was noted that such formation will require 6 to 12 months and will have unique issues associated with the regulatory environment. Cecile Fraley's pediatric group (Pediatric Partners of the Southwest) may seek to form a RHC; SWCMHC would like to form an adult practice RHC under the HPSA designation. Bern stated he is waiting for the outcome of the JSI consultant analyses and suggestions.
- VI. PHCCC update: Missy reported that JSI is hosting a two day workshop with PHCCC members in mid-August to report on their findings and

recommendations. They will answer three basic questions: Is there a health care crisis in La Plata County? What models are available for a long term sustainable solution? And: How can the health care delivery system be financial supported? Bill Warren recommended there be more public information issued, at least the dates for upcoming public meetings as soon as they are determined. JSI led focus groups were discussed. It was reported that attendance at some sessions was small; email as a sole source of communication is not effective and calls should have been made to get larger participation. It was felt that the leader dealing with our ag community was not impartial.

- VII. Website update: Marsha and Missy are working with Kendra Holmes to update the CHAC website. Missy reported that she is gathering information to place on the website, including appropriate links to other related organizations. Suggestions for links include: the 208 Commission, the Health Services Clinic, PHCCC, and the Colorado Institute of Health.
- VIII. “Stop Gap” clinic update: Feedback on the operation of the clinic, which is officially called the “Health Services Clinic”, has been good. It was reported that Valley Wide in Mancos can take CCI clients. Bill Warren, who sits on the Valley Wide Board, said the Durango dental clinic is not doing well financially and that the dentist was recently removed, leaving only a dental hygienist. He feels the intent is to hire another dentist to replace the one that was released. Smile Makers, the traveling dental bus, is having difficulty getting dentists to volunteer their time to treat local indigent children.
- IX. Colorado Health Foundation grant update: Eileen reported the grant request was submitted last week. She has not yet received any feedback, as Kelly Duncan has been on vacation. The request is for approximately \$4800, and includes funding for a website, an insert in the *Herald*, and public meetings.
- X. Safety Net Survey: Questions regarding the Colorado Institute of Health safety net survey were raised. The purpose of the survey was to collect health care data, but it is thought representatives of CIH did not come to La Plata County as expected because Fraley’s pediatric group (the inviting practice) is currently for-profit, not meeting the survey criteria. Missy reported she feels data generated by CIH is being utilized by JSI as part of their analyses.
- XI. Sub-Committee for Public Campaign: Jill asked for input regarding the formation of a subcommittee to prepare for a potential public campaign for funding of a reformed La Plata County health care system. Bob Juskevich has indicated interest in working on this. The group felt it would be appropriate to wait until after JSI makes it recommendations. We will need a public information/communications plan at that time.

- XII. SJBHD Grant: Lynn announced that SJBHD has received a three year grant beginning 7/1/07 for cardiovascular, pulmonary, and cancer prevention through screening with a focus on Latino health. They are currently looking for nurses and nurse practitioners to conduct the screenings.
- XIII. Healthy Lifestyle La Plata: The State of Colorado's Healthy Lifestyles Coalition is currently conducting an automated survey *Neighborhood Health Initiative*.
- XIV. Senior Outreach: Sheila announced a four year grant for Senior Outreach. She is having difficulty hiring a nurse coordinator, suggesting another aspect of the access problem our county is facing
- XV. Long Term Care: The evening Rotary club has adopted long term care as its new area of fundraising emphasis (a former project was dialysis available locally). It is unknown what aspect of long term care they hope to be able to fund. It was suggested we ask a member of the Rotary group to join CHAC. Paulette Church is the incoming president; Missy will contact her.
- XVI. Governor's Commission on Aging: Sheila Casey has been appointed the new chair of the Governor's Commission on Aging. She announced that the Health, Education, and Labor Department has assumed health service clinics as its top priority.
- XVII. Next meeting: Friday, August 3 at Christ the King Church, 8:30 am. Missy will be the meeting leader. Please send any agenda items to her the week of July 30th.

Signed,
Missy Rodey