

## CHAC Meeting Notes

February 2, 2007

Present: Jill Patton, Eileen Wasserbach, Sherrod Beall, Bern Heath, Anthony Demond, Bill Warren, Lynn Westberg, Fred Kroeger, Uta Carleno, Niles Bruno, Bob Juskevich, John Whitney

- I. Introductions:
  - Bob Juskevich, a retired OB/GYN and former member of the board of Directors of Sentara Health Care Systems in VA, attended as a new member.
  - John Whitney, Survey Director for Rep. John Salazar, attended as a new member.
- II. January 2007 meeting notes: approved as distributed.
- III. The Mission Statement dating from the original formation of CHAC was read to see if it should be changed. Niles suggested that a mission statement should include only objectives that could reasonably be achieved. Rather than spend a lot of time on this, it was decided to table the discussion until later when the current mission of CHAC is more clearly defined.
- IV. The contact list was given to the new members to include their information.
- V. It was decided to keep a separate list of supporters who contact us via the website. They will be contacted, sent notes from the meetings (except for any sensitive information) and then called upon as needed.
- VI. Website: Jill reported (from Missy Rodey) that Kendra Holmes will update our website for \$25 to \$35 per hour. Bern said that SW Mental Health will guarantee this expense if we don't have another way to pay for it. Tony volunteered to work with Kendra to make sure the updates are accurate.
- VII. Jill distributed a summary of the results of the Provider Survey that were put together by Missy:
  - It was agreed that these results would be made available to the consultant, once one is hired.
  - Bill Warren will give a generalized version to Marguerite Salazar of Valley Wide.
  - Luke Casias from Valley Wide in Durango will be moving to their Mancos clinic. It was agreed that CHAC should try to monitor developments in Mancos to determine if and how they affect/are affected by the providing of health care in La Plata County.
- VIII. Coalition Team update:
  - Richard Risk reported via email to Missy that now that the City and County have approved the funds, the RFP for a consultant should be ready by 2/14; Mercy is working on identifying both space and staff for the new (temporary) clinic; Governor Ritter and Rep. John Salazar, working together, may be able to help the county receive either a RHC (Rural Health Clinic) or a FQHC (Federally Qualified Health Clinic) designation. Ellen Roberts is helping with this.
  - Of the \$440K made available, \$290K will go to support the Mercy clinic; up to \$150k will pay for the consultant.
  - Mercy Medical will provide funding for a doctor to treat patients in nursing homes. The new clinic to be established will function as an urgent care facility for patients without other payment options.

- The determining qualification for a consultant will be the ability to meet the needs of the county rather than any geographical determination.
  - Mercy Medical, with the help of the Coalition Team, will manage the consultant process, meeting every 2 weeks; the City/County will maintain oversight and veto power. There will be public input at various stages.
  - Bern said that the consultant will probably develop 2 or 3 “models” of solutions, all of which will most likely require some level of local funding. Then local entities can opt to support one or another “model”.
  - It was agreed that CHAC’s role at this point is really one of “treading water” until further developments require our participation.
- IX. Jill reported on the Colorado Health Initiative (CHI) Safety Net community case studies, and that Durango was being considered for one of these. John has recently been in contact with them, and will make the formal request for them to come here to make an evaluation. This will probably involve a meeting with various groups/members of the community. John will get back to us on this. If such a case study is done here, the results should be available by mid- to late summer, and will complement, not conflict with, the work of the hired consultant.
- X. Jill distributed a preliminary version of a letter to Governor Ritter to come from CHAC. It was agreed to go ahead with this. Various members will send Jill their suggestions. John reported on the kind of help we might expect from the Governor and will send Jill some wording for that section. It was agreed that copies should be sent to all our state and federal representatives and the members of the Coalition Team.
- XI. Jill reported that the League of Women Voters will hold a public meeting at the Rec. Center on March 27<sup>th</sup> to discuss the current health care crisis in La Plata County and that several members of CHAC had already agreed to participate. Jill asked, on behalf of the LWV, if CHAC would be willing to be a cosponsor of the event and this was agreed to.
- XII. Eileen reported that the grant proposal submitted by Mercy Medical was refused due to changed circumstances (funding provided by the City/County) and that she would not submit the grant proposal to Colorado Health Foundation for the same reasons. However, she suggested, and it was agreed to, that she should go ahead with a request for \$5K for “operating funds” for CHAC.
- XIII. Jill reported that Ellen Roberts’ bill to streamline the process for establishing a HSD had been presented in the House and assigned the number HB 07-1219.
- XIV. Other: Uta said she was considering writing a letter to the editor asking for people affected by the current crisis to send in their stories, possibly to our website. It was decided that the timing was not currently right for this, and we would bring it up again at an appropriate time.
- XV. Adjournment: 10:15 am. Next Meeting: March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 8:30 am, Christ the King Church.