

CHAC Meeting Notes

May 4, 2007

Present: Jill Patton, Sherrod Beall, Mary Stengel, Shelia Casey, Bob Juskevich, Julie Pickering, Bern Heath, Lynn Westberg and Jenny Wrenn.

The March, 2007 meeting notes were approved as distributed.

Bern Heath gave an update on the status of the new Health Services Clinic which opened for business this week in the space previously occupied by Durango Family Medicine. So far, at least, the volume of patients has been manageable. It is an adult clinic; children are being seen by Cecile Fraley's group. In addition to the staff provided by Mercy, some of the staff from SW Colorado Mental Health Clinic have been working with Mercy staff and seeing patients there, and in the near future, some staff from SJBHD and from La Plata County Dept. of Human Services may be located there also, so the clinic will be able to develop strategies and techniques providing a model for a future "integrated health care system". This might allow the estimated patient load to be increased from 2500 to 3000. Sheila Casey pointed out the advantages of this arrangement for the seniors in the community, as emergency care is far from desirable for them.

The JSI consultant time line and the PHCCC Critical Contact List were passed around for comment. Sherrod Beall suggested that Reesa Webb of JSI be invited to the next CHAC meeting as that will fit with their time line for conducting focus group interviews. It is possible that the date of the meeting might need to be changed (from June 1st) for her. Jill will check into this.

Lynn Westberg discussed the Blue Ribbon Commission on Health Care Reform (the "208 commission") and the upcoming hearing to be held at Mercy Medical Center on Saturday, May 12th from 9 am to noon. By May 17-18, the commission hopes to winnow the current 28 proposals down to 3 to 5 to be modeled by the Lewin Group, so local input at this meeting is important.

The Colorado Health Foundation (CHF) will be holding sessions here on Tuesday May 8th at FLC. Bern will get the relevant information to Jill to be sent to all members.

The final signing by the Governor of Ellen Roberts' HB 1219 streamlining the process for HSDs was discussed. Yea, Ellen!!

Eileen Wasserbach reported by email that CHF told her that a grant application for less than \$5,000 could be approved without a full board review. She will submit such an application to cover copies, website, advertising, etc. for CHAC by the middle of May.