

Citizens Health Advisory Committee
July 10, 2009
8:32 am

Attendance: Deb Banton, Kip Boyd, Sherrod Beall, Meggin Carlton, Luke Casias, Jeanine Justice, Mary Nowotney, Jill Patton, Julie Thompson, Bill Warren, Eileen Wasserbach, Karen Zink.

Minutes June 5, 2009

Sherrod suggested that the minutes cite the documents that are referenced. This will be added to the minutes on the website.

Old Business

Julie stated that she had not been able to find a record of southwest Colorado or La Plata County receiving a designation as a Health Care Practitioner Shortage Area. Karen Midkiff, Director of the Mercy Health Foundation, will prepare a white paper for Senator Bennet's office promoting the need for a facility with FQHC status in our area.

Julie is also following the Colorado Health Foundation activities, including the Health IT projects facilitating the use of electronic health records in Colorado. CHF will assist practices to convert by helping with loans and grants. There has not been established a universal electronic health record system. Kip cited the Medical Practice Act which makes it difficult for providers to work across state lines. There followed discussion of federal and state activities addressing electronic medical records, including HRSA and the Center for Improving Health Care in Colorado. All local providers were urged to be collaborative in efforts to increase the use of EMRs.

The national model of health care currently practiced in Mesa County Colorado was discussed. Recent national publications (The New Yorker and the Wall Street Journal) featured articles that discussed the Mesa County model. This model is successful because the focus was on creating a common interface for different software systems rather than trying to encourage all providers to use a single system. Another model in Weld County uses only one system.

The Nurse Practice Act for Colorado was discussed at length. There was disagreement among those in attendance whether the newly negotiated requirements for NPs to practice in Colorado will be restrictive to the development of additional health care services in rural areas. A group working with the acronym NPATCH is working out the details of the requirements.

Julie's Report

Julie wanted all to know that the Institute of Medicine is working to identify priorities for research projects to better understand health care needs in the US. They are requesting information on possible treatment projects. Contact her if you would like to submit something.

She has been contacting provider offices to complete a survey on access issues. She has met with 17 providers and 3 business managers to date. There are about 25 clinics she has not connected with yet, so that is her focus for the next month.

Julie has also been made aware of data collected by the Colorado Institute of Health which can be accessed and broken down so that it is more meaningful on the local level.

She has completed several presentations to community groups and clubs and spoken with some employers about the Pueblo model which assists employers in providing health care to employees.

The group will meet again at their regular time on August 7, 2009.

The meeting adjourned at 10:10 am.

Submitted by:

Eileen Wasserbach