

MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE ADVISORY COUNCIL AND THE HEALTH SERVICES STEERING COMMITTEE

January 8, 2010

Julie Thompson opened the meeting explaining that this was the first joint meeting between the two committees. She was holding the session to allow for presentations by several community organizations/programs. Each of the presentations has a unique piece in the provision of health care in the community that will be incorporated into Julie's recommendations and plans. She wanted members to have the latest update on the programs and also have an opportunity to ask questions, get clarification, etc.

Breakfast was provided by Healthy Lifestyles LaPlata through the courtesy of Jeanine Justice and Jenny Wren.

New attendees were introduced and included Dr. David Herr representing Rocky Mountain Health Plans, Susan McGinness and Dan Hoff from Fort Lewis College and Susan Hakonson from LaPlata County.

Southwest Colorado Mental Health Center presented background on the development of their integrated care model. The organization has a history of innovation and is the first organization in Colorado or rural America putting some programs into practice. They are implementing primary care services throughout the 5-county area they serve which will fully integrate their currently provided behavioral health services. This model could be a vehicle for a Federally Qualified Health Center for the community. With these changes the organization is changing its name to Axis Health System effective this month.

Sherrod Beall described the past success of the school-based health center at Durango High School. 7,000 student contacts were made during the 2008-2009 school year. The services provided are predominantly behavioral health and reproductive health. They are the only high school health center in Colorado providing Title 10 contraception services due to a partnership with San Juan Basin Health Department. Sherrod described the business plan for future development. The 9R school district is very supportive of the school-based centers and will continue as the lead agency. The center has arranged medical supervision with Southwest Colorado Mental Health Center. The next goal is to open a school-based health center in Florida Mesa Elementary School where almost half of the student population qualifies for free or reduced lunch. Possible future expansion could include Bayfield and Ignacio and even possibly centers in Montezuma or Delores County. Sherrod is also working with BOCES (Board of Cooperative Educational Services) which can provide access to resources).

Bob Boeder is a field representative for the Colorado Council of Churches. The Council is a partner along with Colorado Consumer Health Initiative and the Colorado Business Health Forum in Colorado Voices for Coverage – an effort to support health care reform.

Bob reported on his attendance at a CVC conference in Denver in September and provided information on Colorado Strides, a joint effort by the Colorado Rural Health Center and the Colorado Area Health Education Centers. Colorado Strides provides recruitment and retention assistance to rural communities. Bob also spoke of opportunities for involvement from faith-based groups. He told attendees that there are congregation members willing to volunteer with transportation, forms completion and facilitation as well as potential funding sources. The Collaboration of Caring Communities would be a good local contact. Julie has been talking to Jigger Staby and 2 other active members and will be meeting with them in January to brainstorm.

There was good discussion during the question and answer period. There was support for SWCMHC's pursuit of an application for FQHC status for their center in LaPlata County.

Karen Zink briefly discussed further developments of discussions with Quality Health Network. Julie mentioned several grants available for support of HIT development.

Neither group will have a "regularly scheduled" meeting in the next month. Julie will be completing her recommendations and report and plans to present it to the combined group in late February or early March. Date and location will be announced via email.