

CHAC MEETING - May 1, 2009

In attendance: Julie Thompson, Liza Koepp, Missy Rodey, Kathleen McGinnis, Bob Juskevich, Clint Barter, Jill Patton plus guests Sherry Dugdale and Rick O'Block.

Sherry from the City of Durango spoke about the City of Durango discount cards. These are exactly like the La Plata County discount card, though they are not to be combined you can use one or the other. You can either pick them up at participating pharmacies or at [www.durangogov.org/discount card](http://www.durangogov.org/discount%20card).

A brief review of the CHAC role and responsibilities was provided by Julie to address Tony's concerns. CHAC is to look at the broad issues of access to health care, not just the health services clinic. HSSC is the working group that designs plans that lead to problem solving with input from the community and the CHAC. The CHAC is a think-tank and input group into the decision making group (HSSC). Any implementation plans that result from the strategic planning process will be evaluated by the CHAC for a potential role.

Julie suggested only holding a monthly meeting if there were items to go over. However, as a group it was decided to continue with the monthly meetings as they are valuable to us as a group to be updated about what is going on with everyone and their work.

Julie is going to be doing some marketing for the CHAC as the community needs to be reminded of what we are doing so community members can add input and ask questions.

Rick O'Block from the Health Services Clinic spoke to the group. Rick has 25 years of health care experience, at MMC he does all of the compliance work as well as employed positions. Rick says that when Valley Wide left in March of 2007 MMC had been informed by Valley Wide that when they left they would be leaving 10,000 people without health care. Rick does not feel like this number was accurate, as he states there is availability at the clinic and they only have around 3,000 charts. Rick states that the clinic was created so that people could get their prescriptions filled and have follow up care from the ED. Rick states that the clinic was not created for acute visits. (Then where are our underinsured and uninsured folks suppose to go when they are sick) Rick's answer was that they can go to urgent care. (Urgent care you must pay up front, many families will not do this as they can not afford it. Therefore they go untreated). Rick provided an update that Pagosa Family doc Buzz Bricka will be the new full time doc starting 9/8/09.

Currently the HSC is staffed by an RN that triages calls, LPN for mid levels, receptionists, a nurse that is used as needed, and a part time doc. The next step in the HSC is to establish an EMR which they are using "Salazar Money" for. The HSC also has recently been classified as a health care shortage area. In the coming months a survey will be conducted by the state. Rick anticipates that this will go well. Rick also updated the group (of some info we already had) that SWCMHC no longer is in the clinic. Missy suggested finding a provider in town who can bill Medicaid/Medicare/CHP+ and get them to contract

with the HSC so that those that need behavioral health services can continue to receive those services at the HSC.

Jill provided an update that so far the Nurse Practitioner Act is going well and hopefully it will pass.

Julie has been very busy meeting with key people in the community and has so far had 34 visits and anticipates at least 11 more, a few themes from these appointments is a lot of people did not feel that the number provided by Valley Wide of 10,000 people with out care was accurate, and that we should not be increasing tax payer money to increase access to health care.

Julie will be going to the Safety Net Symposium next week in Denver.

Anyone who would like to support SJBHD should attend the May 6th meeting in the Anasazi room at the court house. The Board of Health will be deciding on the Health Department.

The next meeting is June 5 at the Durango Rec Center.