

## CITIZENS HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

2/7/2009

### 1. Introductions & a new member, Bob Boeder from Silverton.

Bob is working on a grant funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Colorado Voices for Coverage, who is partnering with the Colorado Consumer Health Initiative, the Colorado Progressive Coalition, the Colorado Council of Churches and the Business Health Forum. They are working to promote health care reform, improving access and quality, with the goal of making it affordable for all persons. They are not supporting any particular method at this point. He has lived in Silverton for seven years and became involved in health care after volunteering with Search & Rescue as an EMT. He is interested in receiving health care failure stories: send by email to [boedr@hotmail.com](mailto:boedr@hotmail.com) or to P.O. Box 318, Silverton, CO. 81433.

### 2. Guest Speaker – Neil Stock, Director of Health Information Systems, Technical Support, Clinical Information Systems. Neil has been with Mercy Regional Medical Center(MRMC)for 32 years and his job ensures the safety of information releasing only what is needed for those who “need to know.” See [chaclaplata.org](http://chaclaplata.org) for entire power point presentation.

Neil discussed health information networks(HIN) which began 5-7 years ago locally. Their purpose is to prepare for nationwide change sharing real time clinical information among all health care providers/disciplines across the State to improve patient outcomes, patient/provider relationships while reducing service duplication & the rate of increase in health care spending. Electronic medical records(EMR) &/or electronic health records(EHR) captures different information from all disciplines & will interface with HINs.

There are CHINs(community health information networks), RHIOs(regional health information organizations with information shared regionally, Pagosa, Bayfield, Silverton, Montrose) & NHINs(the national health information network which will build on community and regional successes).

Objectives for the NHIN are:

- to develop standards based secure data exchange
- to improve coordination of care
- ensure information is available at the time & place of care
- demographic info is secure
- gives consumers the capability for managing & controlling their personal health records. Pts. can write addendums to their medical record but cannot change a doctor’s note.
- reduces risks from medical errors & supporting the delivery of appropriate evidence-based medical care; e.g. allergies, medical interactions, contrast agent allergies.
- Lowering health care costs resulting from inefficiencies, errors & incomplete pt. info.

HIPAA allows for the transfer of information between providers to ensure continuity of care. Information releases at MRMC are audited many ways to ensure the “need to know” standard is met and information is not released for unnecessary reasons.

Challenges:

- standards developed for technical architecture
- clinical info relevance: what is important to gather & how long to keep it
- timeliness: how soon will it be available
- system security
- presentation of clinical info: how will it integrate EMRs
- funding for development & this data collection system

NHIN network

- have prototypes now, began in 2003
- In Sept. 2007, HHA awarded 22.5 mil to 19 facilities w/ different disciplines to pilot
- holding public forums for input, most recent 12/08
- [www.hhs.gov/healthit/healthnetwork/](http://www.hhs.gov/healthit/healthnetwork/) for details

MRMC doing:

- offering connectivity choices to practitioners
- results reporting; lab work
- interfacing w/ some EMRs
- ambulatory ordering
- MD portal/standards
- not currently offering software to MD practices but in long term plan
- will collect community wide health statistics from data warehouses; e.g. incidence of MI's, MH or ER visits in house by requesting through Dr. Boyd

Much will depend on national policy & how it develops. Marsha pointed out that Weld County developed system that prioritizes patients needs first, pt. centered care & hopes that will be kept in mind as the systems develop.

3. CHAC grant & hiring staff person: resume submission deadline today at 5pm, have 10 applicants already. Screening resumes next week & have 3 potential times for interviews. Job description went out by email, Herald, etc. Passed out draft of strategic steps & plan. Deliverables in plan were synthesis of past information & studies. Funds available for public polling to build consensus among all community members. Input welcome & should be sent to Missy Rodey. See website for steps & plan @ [chaclaplata.org](http://chaclaplata.org).
4. HSSC working on the position & the hiring of staff person. Hope to have person on board by 3/1/09. Marsha discussed that Bern Heath has stepped down from HSSC & CHAC. He doesn't have time because of working in other Counties on issues. He will be involved as he is needed.

5. Website development: funds(\$1500) still available from the Colorado Health Foundation to revise website after staff person hired.
6. League of Women Voters holding a City Council Candidate Forum 3/19/09 at 6pm. at the City Council chambers. CHAC members are asked to attend to support candidates who believe in funding for health care needs.
7. Next meeting: 3/6/09 at 8:30 AM at the Rec Center. CHAC meeting notes will be available on website from now on, not sent out.