



Morgan County Healthcare Horizon Council
Update to the Community
November 2010

We, members of the Morgan County Healthcare Horizon Council, wanted to provide an update to those of you who have been participating in our community meetings. We also wanted to follow up with those of you who signed up under various health topics during our last meeting in August. In September, we met with the Project Officer from The Colorado Health Foundation who oversees the grant we were awarded. We provided her with an update of our progress – the Rural Health Works meetings, the educational sessions for Council members, etc. Because we have not yet spent all the money that was awarded to us (\$49,957), we requested a six month extension on our grant. While our mission would remain the same, we proposed several issues what the Council might focus on, which were identified in our needs assessments and in our community meetings. Our Project Officer suggested that we could not possibly focus on all of them, so we have narrowed down the Council’s focus – at least in the next six months – to three areas:

1. Hospital board collaboration
2. Healthcare provider shortages and recruitment/retention
3. Cost and availability of health insurance

This does not mean the other topics we identified – oral health, mental/behavioral health, and senior issues – will fall off the radar screen, just that we will be focusing on these other three issues more closely while we still have the grant funding available to us for the next few months.

For those of you who indicated an interest in one the three issues we’re focusing on, if you haven’t been contacted by a Council member, you will be as soon as we have a chance to meet and organize ourselves around these issues.

During the upcoming November meeting, the Council members will consider possible dates for another community lunch meeting – perhaps in early December. We will give a brief Council update, and also, with help from colleagues at Centennial Area Health Education Center, provide a non-partisan overview of the federal health reform in an interactive format where participants get to share their views anonymously with the use of remote control “clickers.” Of course, we will let you know if we do schedule this meeting.

In the meantime, we will continue to provide regular community updates – look for them on our website at www.mocohealthcarehorizon.org. We will also post new Morgan County health information data as we find it.

Thank you for your continued interest and involvement in Morgan County’s healthcare.

With a continual focus on and commitment to the needs of consumers, the Horizon Council will create and implement a plan for an integrated healthcare system that better serves the people of Morgan County.

www.mocohealthcarehorizon.org