

Morgan County Healthcare Horizon Council
March 19, 2010 *7:00am to 9:00am*

Meeting Minutes

Participants

Martha Bieber	Barbara Bradshaw
John Crosthwait	Alan Dahms
Sandi Garcia	Kerry Hart
Dale Ingmire	Kari Linker
Ron Marshall	Mike Patterson
Kevin Rogols	Suzanna Spears
Laura Teague	Linda Thorpe
Howard Wickham	

Coordinator: Denise Denton

Presenter: Mark Wallace, MD, MPH

Minutes

The agenda for today's meeting and the minutes from the February meeting were approved.

Visioning Meeting Date

The council members discussed the date for the visioning retreat. It was agreed that **Friday May 21st** was a good date, and the chances of finding another with only one member conflict was slim. It was agreed that a regular classroom at Morgan Community College would be an appropriate size, and Morgan Community College volunteered to provide breakfast refreshments. The time committed for visioning was from 7AM to 12PM. After the visioning retreat the council will eat lunch together, Kari Linker has offered to organize the lunch.

Other Meeting Dates

The council discussed tentatively planning the next "normal" date of Thursday June 17th for a public meeting to present our visioning product, as well as tentatively scheduling a Horizon Healthcare Council meeting on Friday June 18th for wrap up.

New Program Officer – Brenda Sears

The Council decided to invite the new grant officer, Brenda Sears, to the 5th community meeting that will be held April 15, 2010. Barbara and Denise will follow up.

Grant Program Budget

Current budget will be emailed to the members for review and discussed at the April meeting.

MO CO Health Directory Sub-Committee

Laura and Kevin agreed to serve on a sub-committee to determine if any of the information included in the Directory should be pulled out and placed on the Council's website. They will also make sure the wording describing the Directory, which will be available for down load, makes it clear that the Directory might not contain accurate information as the Council does not intend to update the information.

Issues Identified

Denise asked the Council members to identify key lessons or “aha” moments for them during the RHW process and educational sessions. She will use this information to develop a draft of the “lessons learned” section of the public meeting on 4/15.

Educational Presentation

The guest presenter was Mark Wallace, MD, MPH - Director of the Weld County Department of Public Health and Environment and President of the North Colorado Health Alliance. The North Colorado Health Alliance was created in 2001, and incorporated in 2002. It is a community collaboration among Greeley Safety Net organizations providing health care services to low-income, uninsured residents of our community. The Alliance’s mission is to assure that all area residents have access to affordable, comprehensive, quality health care.

NCHA Founding Partners and Current Board Members

- Banner Health (Hospital operations)
- Island Grove Regional Treatment Center (Substance Abuse Services)
- North Colorado Family Medicine (Family Practice Residency Clinic)
- North Colorado Medical Center Foundation
- North Range Behavioral Health Services (Community mental health services)
- North Colorado Medical Center, Inc. (Hospital ownership Board of Directors)
- Sunrise Community Health (Federally Qualified Health Center)
- Weld County Department of Public Health and Environment
- Weld County Commissioners
- Weld County Medical Society
- United Way of Weld County
- University of Northern Colorado

Commonalities

There were several commonalities between the Alliance and the Horizon Council.

- The Alliance was created during tough economic times, which helped create incentives for collaboration.
- Regardless of uncertainties in the upcoming healthcare environment, integrated care seemed like a good idea.
- The focus of the Alliance’s work was on the patient, and the patient’s experience with and perception of the health care system.
- The Partners included agencies and organizations who provide services, or make service delivery possible, and when possible, the CEO or someone else in a leadership position was asked to participate.
- The Alliance received grant dollars to help support their initial efforts.
- They first conducted a needs assessment in their community, but also an “asset assessment” to identify what they needed, but also what they already had.

Notes on the Presentation

- The Alliance wasn’t trying to create a single medical home, but a “healthcare neighborhood” for their patients.
- The Alliance members believed it was up to the organizations and agencies to “put it all together” for the patient, not up to the patient to try and figure it out.

- The members decided to focus on the uninsured; knew if they could improve access for them, everyone else would also benefit. Their needs assessment had revealed 50,000 without insurance.
- They selected shared and doable projects for their first collaborations. They found pregnant women in their community were not getting into prenatal care early in their pregnancy so they worked together to provide community education, pregnancy tests, and referral to a care source. They also found a need for health care services in the local high schools, so they purchased a mobile health van to provide medical, dental, and mental health care near the schools. This has evolved into a clinic.
- One big difference between the Alliance and the Council, is that the Alliance was able to engage and involve the local physicians and providers. This involvement was so important, the hospital now requires community involvement as part of the employment contracts negotiated with new physicians.
- A saying that help guide and inspire the work of the Alliance is - *"There are only four colors, ten digits and seven notes; it's what you do with them that's important."* - Ruth Ross. Mark pointed out that it isn't necessarily what you have, but how you use it that makes the difference.

MCHHC Public Meeting – Thursday April 15, 2010 12:00-1:00
Next MCHHC Meeting – Friday April 16, 2010 7:00-9:00am
Visioning Meeting – Friday May 21, 2010 7:00 – 12:00

Minutes prepared by: Laura Teague and Denise Denton