

COMMUNITY HEALTH ACTION COALITION
ANNUAL MEETING
FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 2017
8:00 – 10:00 AM

Present: Jenny Treanor, Christie Schler, Myoung Fry (all MRMC), Sheila Casey (Sr. Ctr), Sloan Gingg, Shannon Shropshire, Claire Ninde, Flannery O'Neil, Kari Plante (all SJBHD), Jaynee Fontecchio, Yonna Moore (Prof. Case Mgt), Lynn Westberg (CHAC Bd), Missy Rodey (DeNovo), Eve Presler (RMHP, CCC), Anna Royer (Omni), Tamara Jessup (Comfort Keepers), Lauren Patterson (Family Ctr), Erin Linden, Jessica Gwilliam, Debbie Higgs (all Axis), Vic Lopez, MD, Laura Schiavone (9R), Dave Rich (Sr. Outdoors), Scott Wallace (CORHIO), Linda Daniel, Brandy Wright (4 Cnrs Hlth Ctr), Bob Cox, MD (ACP), Rusty Connor, Mary Dengler-Frey (both SWCAHEC), Eileen Wasserbach (SUCAP & CHAC Bd), Eric Mytko, Christy Deem, pattie adler (CHAC)

pattie adler, Executive Director of CHAC, welcomed the participants. She told everyone that, for several years, CHAC has named a Health Hero of the year. This is typically a CHAC member who has gone above and beyond normal participation to support the success of CHAC's efforts in improving health in our community. Recipients keep a large plaque of all honorees for a year and then receive a smaller individual plaque to keep. There was no award in 2016 because of the uncertainty around CHAC for a big part of the year. However, Dr. Bob Cox, the 2015 recipient, was awarded his individual plaque in recognition of his outstanding service.

Bob then gave a brief update on the current CHAC initiative promoting Advance Care Planning (ACP) called, "My Life: Deciding in Advance". The Advisory Committee is developing strategies and tools to get information to those 18+ in La Plata County. Another step will be to integrate the common forms in use for Advance Directives with each individual's health record. The group currently is recruiting volunteers to form a speaker's bureau to educate groups of people throughout the county. Speakers will present to existing groups in the county, such as service organizations, businesses, churches, worksites, etc. and will also provide information at community meetings (1-2 per year) on the topic. There will be a number of trained Personal Resource Specialists (resource people) in the community to answer questions and assist with completion of forms to add to their health records.

pattie reviewed the agenda. Eileen, as chair of the CHAC Board, welcomed the participants. She said that the board was really pleased to have been funded for the ACP initiative, but felt strongly that CHAC was never a "one-issue" organization, so the goal for today was to define the community needs where CHAC can have a presence. After there is some identification of the scope of these needs, the board will finalize action steps for 2017 at a planning session in February. In addition to some topics which have already been identified, Lynn suggested that political action or advocacy could be another area. Scott suggested community-based care and care coordination. Christie said that housing as a factor of health was important. Sheila brought up seniors. Eric mentioned veterans' care and Claire suggested health equity. It was decided that common language, consistent messaging, seniors and veterans' issues and health equity were themes that would run through all of the other topics and inform the action plans.

It was decided to combine the topics of Behavioral Health, Suicide, Depression and Substance Abuse into one area for the small group session.

CHAC members reported on the current status of some of the topics. Kari addressed oral health. She said after a year-long conversation about fluoridation in Durango city water, the City Council approved continued use of fluoride last year. However, a petition has recently surfaced which may reverse that vote, or put the issue to an election. Also, a new dentist, Dr. Anderson at Rivergate, has agreed to accept Medicaid for adults and to provide dentures. Other issues included senior dental health and integration with primary care. The Oral Health Team will meet on Jan. 17.

Jayne discussed behavioral health. She reminded participants of the Wellness Wheel which the team had used to help the community evaluate behavioral health from different perspectives of life. Their focus has been on prevention and education and has not been political. The team still meets quarterly. If there are resources and interest, the next step would be in identifying what is going on in the community that is different from four years ago and developing a recognized response to substance abuse. Sheila also reminded the group that a mini-summit on depression was well attended in early 2016. The Behavioral Health Team will meet on Jan. 26.

Shannon reported on programs at SJBHD that address obesity. She said Colorado is still the leanest state in the nation for adults, but is seeing trends in the under 18 population toward higher rates of obesity. The health department implemented a worksite wellness grant and the Spark physical education program for children in after school services, and currently has the Promotora program and WIC that are all efforts that are working on obesity prevention. Region 9 is the third leanest region in the state. The state health department has prioritized obesity for the general population and has identified it as one of the ten Winnable Battles in public health.

Sloan also spoke about a program at the health department funded through the WIC program by the Centers for Disease Control. The grant aims to increase access to healthy food for low income families and is working through Manna Soup Kitchen, and the Garden Project with a Coordinated School Health curriculum.

Laura spoke about efforts in 9R schools to address obesity. They worked in prevention, re-writing the district wellness policy last year. The Garden Project and Cooking Matters have worked closely with the schools on education efforts. Laura said schools have not collected data on student BMI to date, but she was re-thinking that, perhaps to collect the data and meet in private with the student and parents regarding healthier eating.

Participants at the meeting were then invited to take a short break and to place sticky notes on the different flipchart sheets on the wall that identified areas where CHAC could focus for 2017.

The top results of the sticky note voting were as follows:

Behavioral Health—15

Political Action—13

Suicide—8 (incl. with Beh. Hlth)

Oral Health—6

Other topics suggested, but not prioritized for action were:

Housing as a health issue – 5

Depression – 3 (incl. with Beh. Hlth)

Community-based care and Care Coordination – 3

Obesity – 3

Insurance – 2 (incl. with Political Action)

Participants clustered in groups around the top three topics for about 20 minutes. Then they reported back to the larger group:

Behavioral Health group: Tamara J., Yonna M., Claire N., Christy D., Debbie H., Jessica G., Christie S., Myoung F., Sheila C., Jenny T., Shannon S., Jaynee F., Laura S.

Claire reported on the team that looked at Behavioral Health. The group admitted that the topic is complex and includes many factors. They are proposing more consistent messaging and education. Information should include suicide, substance abuse and depression across multiple ages and languages. This is not the responsibility of one agency; they propose that many get together. The issue of access needs some more work—this is also related to the stigma of needing help for mental issues. We need to create a common language so that messaging can be consistent. The information should all be channeled into political action.

The newsprint sheet of the group had: access; suicide, depression, substance abuse (marijuana, opioids), Senior Reach, depression info cards to all doctor offices, Pediatric Partners has multi-lingual help, Summit County has a program, consistent messaging of complexity – how to prevent suicide and address depression and substance abuse (schools, EMS, police), more visible messaging – multi-lingual (schools, EMS, police) and be consistent & collaborative – minimize stigma and enhance access (schools, EMS, police)

Eve and Anna met together as a sub-group of Behavioral Health. Anna (though OMNI) has some funding for faith based work. Eve has developed several relationships with faith based communities. They propose training in Mental Health First Aid and specifically working on behalf of underserved groups such as LGBTQ persons. They have a starting point with the Collaboration of Caring Communities.

Oral Health group: Eileen W., Kari P., Erin L.

Kari reported on Oral Health. The group proposed continued education on prevention and being sure to get out facts regarding fluoride—there is a lot of misinformation about what could happen with fluoride in the water. There are some talking points available to the attendees regarding fluoride. There is also concern about the repeal of the ACA and what it might do to expanded dental benefits under Medicaid. There is an opportunity for advocacy from CHAC with the proposed ballot issue in the City of Durango regarding fluoridation.

The newsprint sheet of the group had: education on prevention, fake news on fluoridation, access to care, removal of Medicaid benefit/ACA, integration into medical model, and seniors/Medicare/no dental benefits.

Political Action group: Sloan G., Lauren P., Bob C., Lynn W., Missy R., Linda D., Brandy W., Mary D-F, Scott W., Eric M.

Brandy gave the summary of the Political Action discussion. The group would like to see a clear process through the CHAC organization. It should include how individual members can get involved, what is the approval process before CHAC takes a position, what are appropriate action steps, etc. Two issues that seem to need advocacy right now are Medicaid expansion and what will happen with ACA repeal, and letters to local officials regarding fluoridation. There is some urgency; time is a factor. Apathy is over! Sheila suggested that the CHAC website could have some kind of place where this information could be available. It was mentioned that Mental Health Colorado is hosting Hill Day at the state capitol on February 22 and they are looking for testimonials.

The newsprint sheet of the group had: National – matched federal funds, State – hospital provider fee, Enterprise Fund helps to offset, local – Medicaid expansion (stories) important issue, very important to have a clear process through CHAC (Board approval for political involvement), time is a factor, having a voice, CHAC take a position on fluoridation or just educate?, letters to local representatives on what CHAC is framing, local impact regarding Medicaid expansion, light up in boxes, phones, etc., encourage locals to speak their mind on this issue – Medicaid expansion, get community response on how providers are impacted.

Notes taken by Eileen Wasserbach with minor additions by pattie adler