

CHAC Monthly Meeting

March 10, 2017
Durango Recreation Center

Attendees:

Cathy Roberts, MRMC	Jenny Treanor, MRMC
Dave Rich, Seniors Outdoors	Liz Stellrecht, Manna
Gordon South, SJBPH	Mary Dengler-Frey, SWCAHEC
Sherrod Beall, Vote No on 1	Debbie Higgs, Axis
Brittany Nava, Axis	Shannon Shropshire, SJBPH
Erin Linden, Axis	Laura Marchino, Region 9
Victor Lopez, physician	Bob Cox, ACP
Sheila Casey, LPC Senior Services	Erin Youngblood, Evenings Porch
Cari Powell, LPFCC	Anna Royer, OMNI
Victoria Garcia, Axis	Christie Schler, MRMC
Brittany Brumfield, Axis	Laura Schiavone, 9R Schools
Eileen Wasserbach, SUCAP	pattie adler, CHAC
Stephanie Allred, Axis	Kathy Sherer, CHAC

CHAC Announcements

CHAC Political Education/Action

Eileen explained what has been decided by the Board since the annual meeting where the membership requested more political activism by CHAC. Policy: If any CHAC member has an issue they would like the membership to know about, the Board & staff will get that information out. If a member wants CHAC (Board) to take a position on an issue, that member needs to do the research and tell the Board why CHAC should or should not support that issue. The Board will then discuss that issue and decide on an action which could be Board action, participant education or no education/action.

Members had the following questions and concerns:

Cathy R. – On a controversial issue where the membership has differing opinions, how will dissenting views be handled?

Eileen – That would not preclude us from putting out information from both sides, but the Board would decide on one position for CHAC.

Vic L. – I would rather CHAC put out information and let people draw their own conclusions instead of taking a position. If we want to be an inclusive organization, that kind of posturing could work against us.

Eileen – A strong majority at the annual meeting felt that CHAC has the ability to affect decisions and we should use that.

Sherrod B. – How would the Board deal with a timely issue like the fluoride vote?

Eileen – The consensus of the Board was to support Vote No, and Lynn W. is drafting a letter.

Bob C. – It is hoped that members would still feel included in CHAC even if they don't agree with a position.

Cathy R. – If a decision is made that puts Mercy in a position where it's in conflict with their organizational values, they might be obligated to distance themselves to make it clear that CHAC is not speaking for them.

Eileen – We will need to deal with those issues as they come up.

Sheila C. – It's important that we all become educated about the facts, and the Board wants to disseminate those facts.

Vic L. – Political advocacy groups are very common, but having a group that represents all sides of an issue is rare. Putting out information is what our function should be, and taking a political position is not.

Laura L-M – Supporting or not supporting an issue could be decided by consensus of those present.

pattie – This a process we're trying to navigate and everyone's input is appreciated. Since we don't have the capacity to keep up with all the issues, we are looking for someone who is keeping on top of health-related political topics who could feed that information to us. Please let us know if you have any ideas for someone.

April Program

Alex Bethel from Senator Bennet's office will be here to give us a legislative update at the April 14 monthly meeting. Some possible topics were suggested: ACA, immigration as a health issue, proposed federal budget, block grants, Medicaid, climate change affecting health, methane burn-off vs. re-use as a health issue esp. in Four Corners area. Since the meeting, these have been shared with Alex.

Advance Care Planning

Bob reported on ACP progress and the two trainings that have taken place for the volunteers speakers/PRS (Feb. 28 and March 9). The second one was recorded and will be used for further training.

We will have a table at the Durango 9Health Fair on 4/8 and a speaker during National Healthcare Decisions Week in conjunction with a Caregiver Conference on 4/18. Kathy is coordinating the Speakers Bureau. If you know of a group wanting a presentation, please contact her. We will also be distributing information/resource rack cards soon to inform the community about our services.

Presentation

LINK: Life Interruptions Need Kindness

Christie Schler, MSW, LINK Coordinator, MRMC

“Though frequently accessing medical care, the highest utilizers of the Emergency Department and Hospital often do not have their basic needs met nor are the root causes of their plight addressed. Ultimately, despite a disproportionate use of healthcare resources, these patients continue a progressive downward spiral...the purpose of the project is to *link* the right people, at the right time, for the right outcome for our most vulnerable population in La Plata County.”

The goals of LINK are: better health outcomes, better quality of life, and lower costs. The philosophy is “no reject, no eject.” Local possibilities are healthcare integration, emergency shelter, permanent supportive housing, and addiction treatment. We notice – we care – we want to help.

For more information about LINK, contact Christie at 970-903-4943 or christieschler@centura.org. Her powerpoint presentation is attached with these meeting notes.

Cathy Roberts clarified Mercy's position on medical aid in dying:

1. We will not abandon patients – care will never be withheld.
2. We cannot allow patients to take end-of-life medication while in our care/facility.
3. We can't help patients obtain the medication.
4. We have a team who can counsel and refer hospice and palliative care patients about that decision.
5. We don't know yet if there is anyone locally who will prescribe the medications.

Networking

Eileen Wasserbach:

- Indivisible Durango is a politically active national effort with a local group formed since the election. We're looking for a CHAC participant who already is, or would be able, to attend the meetings of its Healthcare Team to keep us updated and vice versa. She will find out more about it from Peter Tregillus.
- There is an RFP from the state for suicide prevention. SUCAP is interested in applying and wants information about what's already happening in the community and who else might be applying. Someone said the Pinyon Project in Cortez is applying.

Gordon South: SJBPH is planning a suicide prevention summit on May 11. Resource tables will be available; ACP would be appropriate.

Laura Schivone: The school district has been brainstorming about suicide prevention and education. September is Suicide Awareness month and will be a great time to bring the community and the schools together around this issue.

Sherrod Beall: There is a lot of opposition in Durango around fluoride. A grassroots organization has been formed called "Healthy Kids, Healthy Durango – Vote NO on 1A." to support keeping fluoride in the City of Durango water supply. They have a website, flyers, and yard signs if you are interested in helping. Sherrod is leading this effort.

Mary Frey: The annual Nightingale Luminary and Star Awards is March 16, 7 p.m. in the Strater Theater. There will be a silent auction to benefit the Community Nursing Scholarship Fund.

Anna Royer: Anna is a Training and Technical Assistance Manager for OMNI Institute. Contact her if you need technical assistance or facilitation or training services in the field of prevention including (Youth) Mental Health First Aid.

Shannon Shropshire: SJBPH is starting its Environmental Health Survey. Cards are available with the website address so you can participate.

The next membership meeting is scheduled for April 14 from 8:00 to 9:30 a.m. at the Rec. Center.

Meeting notes submitted by Kathy Sherer & pattie adler