

## CHAC Monthly Meeting

April 14, 2017  
Durango Recreation Center

### Attendees:

Christie Schler, MRMC	Brandy Wright, 4 Cnrs Hlth Care Ctr
Sylvia Bowen, MRMC	Kathy Tonnessen, Manna
Erin Linden, Axis	Claire Ninde, SJBPH
Victoria Garcia, Axis	Shannon Shropshire, SJBPH
Brittany Nava, Axis	Kari Plante, SJBPH
Debbie Higgs, Axis	Laura Warner, SJBPH
Sheila Casey, La Plata Co Sr Svcs	Roger Haney
Victor Lopez	Martha Mason, SW Ctr Indep
Dave Rich, Seniors Outdoors	Peter Tregillus, SUCAP
Bill Warren, Axis	pattie adler, CHAC
Bob Cox, "My Life"	Kathy Sherer, CHAC
Jayne Fontecchio	Alex Bethel, Sen. Bennet's office

### CHAC Announcements

New Board Members: Welcome to Christie Schler, Scott Wallace and Vic Lopez

#### CHAC Political Advocacy

The Board and staff have found that they don't have the capacity to review all the information that is being submitted. Therefore, while the Board takes some time to establish a firm process, both for sharing information and for CHAC taking a position on a given issue, we are suspending our practice of distributing information through the CHAC Connection e-news for now. This will be discussed at a Board retreat will take place April 26. If you have input for the retreat, please get it to pattie before then.

#### My Life: Deciding in Advance

Publicity has begun which includes radio, newspaper, electronic news, Facebook and distribution of rack cards. Group presentations are also taking place and will include a speaker during National Healthcare Decisions Week in conjunction with the Caregiver Conference on 4/18. An article will be in the Herald on 4/15. Kathy is coordinating the Speakers Bureau. If you know of a group wanting a presentation, please contact her at [kathy@chaclaplata.org](mailto:kathy@chaclaplata.org).

### Presentation

Alex Bethel, Constituent Advocate from Sen. Bennet's office, discussed the American Health Care Act (AHCA) and why it failed as well as budget cuts by Trump – what was cut and how much. Press releases can be found at [www.bennet.senate.gov](http://www.bennet.senate.gov) under "Updates."

What Bennet has done:

- Chronic Care Act – addresses chronic illness to expand independence at home for Medicare recipients

- Carbon Capture Activities Act – addresses carbon capture and storage projects; bill has been introduced
- Clean Air Healthy Kids Act – revokes Trump’s anti-climate executive order; bill has been introduced
- Methane Rule – supports keeping EPA methane rule to reduce methane emissions

Discussion:

- Want more info on Chronic Care Act
- What help can CHAC give Sen. Bennet – write letters and call (be specific)
- How many people in La Plata County would be affected by the AHCA?
- Focus on access to healthcare in LPC for under-served and un/under-insured
- Personal stories about Medicaid/ACA benefits and how lack of care affects people – contact Ellen Stein of the Herald Editorial staff
- What social determinants of health are also being attacked (housing, nutrition, etc.)?
- Show Garner, Tipton and Bennet facts and numbers how benefits and cuts affect constituents
- Prevention loses financial support first
- Need controls over insurance and pharmaceutical companies including executives’ compensation
- Multiple insurance plans constantly changing can cost seniors

**Networking**

Bob Cox, “My Life”: how might LPIH be affected by federal changes? Bill (Axis Board) thinks federal FQHC monies won’t be affected, but Medicaid and dental funds could be

Erin Linden, Axis

Starting May 1, the dental clinic will be in a new space on Colorado Ave. off Florida Road. They will expand to 4 chairs.

Kari Plante, SJBPH

May 30, 5:30 – 7:30pm at the Rec. Center will be a presentation on what primary healthcare providers and community advocates should know and do about key oral and health problems that afflict many older adults. Please see flyer attached to notes.

Claire Ninde, SJBPH

May 11, 5:00 at Miller Middle School will be a Suicide Prevention Community Summit. Learn about suicide prevention resources for all ages and how to create a locally-based support system. Please see flyer attached to notes.

Peter Tregillus, SUCAP

SUCAP just received a \$10,000 grant from Colorado Dept. of Public Health & Environment to do suicide prevention. Darlene Russell has been doing “Gatekeeper” suicide prevention training for five years locally (reached 300 – 400 people). She will be doing QPR training at the May 11 Summit. A major high risk group in our area is working age men. SUCAP also has been doing Epic training for middle school kids to increase self esteem.

Jayne Fontecchio

The Behavioral Health Team has a new depression poster with resource cards that is now available. Call Jenny Treanor at 759-1444 to get one.

Sheila Casey, Senior Services

The Caregiver Conference will be April 18, 8AM – noon at the Fairgrounds and will cover “How to Bring Generations Together for an Aging Society” and “My Life: Deciding in Advance – Having the Conversation.” On May 16, 10AM at the Fairgrounds it will cover medical aid in dying and self-care for the caregiver. Both events are free, but there is registration. Please see flyer attached to notes.

A “No Wrong Door” grant was just received that Senior Services and many other agencies were working on. Our region will be able to create a network of care that is web-based so information can be shared in all 5 counties. The Area Agency on Aging (AAA) will administer it beginning June 1.

Shannon Shropshire, SJBPH

They are working on the next Community Health Assessment. A link to do this environmental health survey is: <https://everydayco.org/your-values>.

Martha Mason, SW Ctr for Independence

They have two new Independent Living staff physicians to help with their growing clientele, and they are starting a transportation program. They are also looking at a contract with Rocky Mountain Health Plans to do grassroots organizing around self-advocacy and access to healthcare. Three new people have been housed with housing vouchers.

**The next monthly CHAC meeting is scheduled for May 12 from 8:00 to 9:30 a.m. at the Rec. Center. A presentation of *My Life: Deciding in Advance* about “Having the Conversation” will be given by Vic Lopez, MD.**

Meeting notes submitted by Kathy Sherer & pattie adler