

CHAC Monthly Meeting
July 14, 2017
Durango Recreation Center

Attendees:

Christie Schler, MRMC; CHAC Board
Kari Plante, SJBPH
Bill Warren, Axis
Dave Rich, Seniors Outdoors
Eileen Wasserbach, SUCAP; CHAC Board
Myoung Lee, MRMC
Erin Linden, Axis
Stephanie Allred, Axis
Andrew Grimm, Axis

Astra Clendenning, Axis
Claire Ninde, SJBPH
Roger Haney, Manna Board
Christine Hynes, Axis
Susan Coulter, citizen
Martha Mason, SW Center for Independence
Stuart Jenkins, Sen. Bennet's Office
pattie adler, CHAC
Kathy Sherer, CHAC

My Life: Deciding in Advance

A community education event for the general public will be held Sept. 14, 8:00-1:00 at the Durango Library. Please save the date. It will be free and have registration – watch for more information. So far this year, we have reached 726 people and held/participated in 32 events.

Advocacy Update

Eileen gave an update about our advocacy process since the last membership meeting. There will be time at each monthly meeting for members to bring up issues – especially those that could have a local impact. An advocacy form (attached) has been developed and was distributed to be used for requesting the Board to look at an issue. We want to be responsive to members, make everyone feel welcome, and preserve the integrity of CHAC by presenting accurate information.

August Meeting

A representative of the Indivisible Durango Health Care Team will present. Ideas for topics were: Disability Integration Act, Medicaid expansion, Medicare, gun control, healthcare delivery and payment reform.

Presentation (see PowerPoint with these notes and on CHAC website)

Kristine Hynes, DDS, the Oral Health Director for Axis, gave a presentation on the new dental clinic.

Axis Health System, through La Plata Integrated Healthcare (a Federally Qualified Health Center) has been providing direct dental services since July 2016. Ongoing support is received from Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Colorado Health Foundation, and Caring for Colorado.

Its new location at 2530 Colorado Ave, Suite 1A, opened May 2017. They offer exams, x-rays, emergency treatment, cleanings, sealants, oral hygiene instruction, fluoride treatments, extractions, restorations, and non-surgical periodontal therapy. Root canal therapy, crowns, bridges, partials and dentures are offered on a limited basis. A sliding fee scale is offered for patients without dental insurance who meet eligibility requirements. Medicaid experts are available at the clinic to help with enrollment and/or coverage. About 80% of patients are on Medicaid. They have seen over 2000 patients since July 2016 (primarily adults).

Updates and Networking

Stuart Jenkins – Sen. Bennet does not support the latest federal healthcare bill proposed by Senate Republicans and believes it is deeply flawed:

1) 188,500 fewer Coloradoans would be enrolled in Medicaid by 2026; 2) Colorado would receive \$15 billion less in federal funding by 2030 due to caps on Medicaid funding; 3) premiums and cost-sharing would increase significantly for older and sicker Coloradoans across the board; 4) out-of-pocket spending would increase due to the elimination of cost-sharing subsidies; and 5) the opioid epidemic would be much more difficult to fight as many users are Medicaid enrollees. Instead, he prefers to fix the ACA. He also wants to see better price negotiations with pharmaceutical companies. Since the meeting, the proposed bill has died and efforts have moved on to repeal, but not replace the ACA – stay tuned to events in Congress.

Sen. Bennet recently introduced legislation to encourage Medicare beneficiaries to create electronic Advance Directives.

Stephanie Allred – A jail-based behavioral health services program (during incarceration) has been successful due to a grant received by the sheriff's office. Another grant has been obtained to cover the gap in services for up to 3 months after inmates are released.

Eileen Wasserbach – SUCAP has been selected by the Governor's Office to receive a grant for Multi Systemic Therapy (MST) in rural Colorado. MST is a model for addressing substance abuse with children and their families.

Martha Mason – You can text the word "resist" to 50409 and it will give you a list of your legislators. You then can text a message which will be put into a professional letter format.

The SWCI transportation program is close to up and running. A coordinator has been hired. It will focus on Medicaid doctor appointments.

Dave Rich – 80 hikes have been scheduled for seniors. They are rated easy, moderate, hard, and challenging.

Myoung Lee – Depression prevention/support posters and cards are being distributed. The next step is to make some in Spanish. The next Behavioral Health Team meeting is July 20 (3:00pm) at SJBPH.

Kari Plante – The next Oral Health Team meeting is August 22 (noon) at SJBPH. The topic of suicide prevention is being addressed with dentists since they see people twice a year – more than some other professionals.

pattie adler – The CHAC biannual newsletter will be coming out August 9th. Please send submissions to pattie or Kathy by August 1st.

Christie Schler – Life Interruptions Need Kindness (LINK) has just hired a second staff person (joining Christie). Her background is in making programs sustainable. Data from year 1 show a positive impact from the program.

Bill Warren – Axis has opened a new clinic in Pagosa Springs. It will have a Primary Care Provider, Behavioral Healthcare, and (in the future) Oral Healthcare. It is not a FQHC.

Claire Ninde – SJBPH has launched a Mental Health/Behavioral Health Stigma Reduction Campaign called "Let's Talk Colorado" using materials utilized throughout the state. The goal is to make it a messaging campaign that is consistent across the state regarding normalizing mental health and initiating conversation around it.

Erin Linden – The organic garden at the Roberta Shirley Childcare Center is wonderful and offering great nutrition for folks. An Axis program is teaching people how to shop for and prepare healthy food. Also, the Manna garden distributes food on Wednesday afternoons and is free to those who cannot afford a minimal donation.

CHAC Meeting Presentations

August 11: Indivisible Durango's Health Care Team – Rosemary Fleming, Nurse Practitioner and former team co-chair

September 8: Healthcare Delivery and Payment Reform – Mark Carley, Centura Health (Denver)

October 13: Health Insurance Open Enrollment – Lauren Patterson (Family Center) & Kevin O'Connor (SJBPH)

The next monthly CHAC meeting is scheduled for August 11 from 8:00 to 9:30 a.m. at the Durango Rec. Center.

Meeting notes submitted by Kathy Sherer with minor additions by pattie adler