

**CHAC Monthly Meeting**  
May 11, 2018  
Durango Recreation Center

**Attendees:**

Eileen Wasserbach, SUCAP; CHAC Board	Doug McCarthy, Commonwealth Fund
Lynn Westberg, CHAC Board	Elsa Inman, MRMC
Helen Griego, MRMC	Lon Erwin, CHAC Board
Scott Wallace, CORHIO, CHAC Board	Jayne Fontecchio, community member
Anne Dizenzo, Axis	pattie adler, CHAC
Scott Mathis, MRMC Board	Kathy Sherer, CHAC
Martha Mason, SW Center for Independence	

**“My Life: Deciding in Advance” (Advance Care Planning)**

Our latest educational community event, held April 28, was very successful. This was a Saturday morning event that drew 51 attendees. Our next large event is scheduled for September 19, 8:30 AM to noon.

**Life Interruptions Need Kindness** (The powerpoint is not able to be included)

Elsa Inman, Coordinator, Mercy Medical Center LINK Program

“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.

LINK doesn't include all high utilizers of the ED, but Elsa chooses who to invite to join. Participation is voluntary; services include developing a treatment plan with community care partners to decrease ED use and cost; there are screening and referral services with aftercare beyond discharge from the program. Many participants need non-traditional ways of receiving care.

The biggest drivers of healthcare needs of program enrollees are: 1) substance abuse (esp. alcohol), 2) mental health and 3) unmanaged chronic diseases (esp. diabetes and kidney disease).

Elsa sometimes refers Medicaid enrollees (18 and older) who need behavioral health to a free on-line service of IESO Digital Health through the Colorado Health Partnership. This can offer a helpful resource during (instead of?) a waiting period to get into Axis services. Only Medicaid participants are eligible. Contact [iesohealth.com/co](http://iesohealth.com/co) or (844) 284-7770.

There is a Leadership Team and Steering Committee for LINK. It's supported by a three-year grant (~\$770,000) from Catholic Health Initiatives (summer 2016 – summer 2019); MRMC would like to absorb LINK to continue it instead of applying for another grant from CHI.

A new social worker will begin on May 21; then Elsa will go back to doing only administrative tasks and not direct services.

### LINK Program Outcomes Data (July 2016 to December 2017):

- During LINK enrollment, ED costs were reduced by \$15,831.
- The target was to reduce ED costs by 5%. This target was met in Cohort 1 and 3, but not 2 and 4; each cohort last four months and has ~25 people.
- The target was to reduce total MPMC costs by 5%. In every Cohort thus far, the target was met.
- Overall, targets for Cohorts 0-3 have been met except for the Quality of Life metric.
- The goal to reduce the total days of incarceration was met in every Cohort except #2. This was due to one participant who was in jail for an extended period.
- Most participants had Medicaid (including RCCO) with some Medicare and Indian Health Service

Next steps: 1) determine Return on Investment i.e. include costs to run the program and 2) compare readmission rates for LINK (have the data) vs. non-LINK patients

### **Advocacy**

Vote in the Colorado primaries in June whether you're Democrat, Independent or Republican; many seats will be open.

Colorado Health Institute has published a report of the 2018 Legislative session; find it at the CHI website.

Beginning with 2019, any non-profit can be designated to receive donations on the state income tax return.

### **Updates and Networking**

#### Martha Mason:

- Growing Together Summit + Family Day, June 4-5, FLC, [www.sjboces.org/apps/news/article/853905](http://www.sjboces.org/apps/news/article/853905)
- Classes: *Living Well with a Disability*; *How to Find Housing*
- Hiring soon for a Nursing Home Transition Coordinator
- Southwest Rides is providing 300 trips per month – free to people with disabilities, elders, veterans
- Support groups include PTSD, Physical Disabilities, Brain Injury, Low Vision, MS
- Work groups and coalitions include: Activism Coalition, One Strong Voice of the Disability Community, Cutting Through the Noise, Durango Accessible Communities Team
- Assistive Technology (magnifiers, readers, etc.) available for people age 60+ who are losing or have lost their eyesight.

Anne Dizenzo – The Senior Reach program (Axis) works with at-risk adults age 60 and over. Care coordination and individual therapy is done in their homes. Usually 6-10 sessions are provided and are paid through insurance after a free initial visit. It serves Bayfield, Ignacio, Durango and Silverton. To make a referral, call 335-2217; it can be done anonymously, but it helps if someone's willing to give their identity.

Scott Wallace – A joint pilot project is being discussed that would combine the ACP community effort with the CORHIO technical platform. The CORHIO health information exchange could play a part in continuing the education as well as assisting with the process of having the ACP conversation, completing the documents, and then pushing them into a repository where they would be accessible to providers as well as patients and families.

pattie adler – The Behavioral Health Team is continuing to work on ways to address social connectedness. If grant funding is received, an initiative will begin late fall or early next year.

### **Ideas for Upcoming Presentations**

- Sheriff Dept. (esp. homeless issue)
- Durango Police Dept. (esp. homeless issue – Ed Abner)
- Housing
- Nutrition/Food Bank (Sarah Smith, [durangofoodbank@durango.net](mailto:durangofoodbank@durango.net) or 970-375-2672)
- CEAC and Salvation Army changes (Lora Sholes)
- RAE (Nichol Konoly - RMHP)
- Axis outpatient services – esp. access/wait and strategic plan (Stacy Russell, Outpatient Services or Stephanie Allred)
- “No Wrong Door” program
- Dept. of Human Services

**The next monthly CHAC meeting is scheduled for June 8, 8:30-10:00 a.m. at the Durango Rec. Center.** Low Income Housing (Social Determinant of Health) – Lora Sholes

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