

CHAC Monthly Meeting
July 13, 2018
Durango Recreation Center

Attendees:

Lynn Westberg, CHAC Board	Scott Mathis, Mercy Board
Kari Plante, SJBPH	Anne Dizenzo, Axis
Missy Krause, MRMC	Scott Wallace, CORHIO
Bill Warren, Axis Board	Katie Koeppen, Community member
Astra Clendenning, Axis	pattie adler, CHAC
Rachael Bauske, VOA	Kathy Sherer, CHAC
James Burpee, retired MD	

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

Our next large free community education event is scheduled for September 19, 8:30 AM to noon at the Durango Library. Presentations and forms are available at www.chaclaplata.org. Our Personal Resource Specialists also can work with people individually.

Volunteers of America – Community Shelter and Southwest Safehouse

Rachel Bauske - Frasure, SWCO Division Director

VOA has six programs locally; she oversees all but the first two:

- Cedar View senior housing has 55 units on 32nd Street for low-income people age 62 and over. A Community Coordinator provides programs and assistance to make sure everyone is staying healthy and not isolated. Small dogs are allowed.
- The Back Home Program is based out of the Commons Building and helps veterans and their families who are newly homeless or on the verge of homelessness. It helps with rent as well as case management to help them remain stable.
- The Durango Community Shelter is for men, women and children. The temporary stay is up to 3 weeks. If they obtain FT employment, they can stay an additional 3 months. Rent is asked (\$25/wk first 2 weeks, \$35/wk second 2 weeks, then \$45/wk) to encourage ownership, accountability, and planning skills. Alcohol and drugs are not allowed.
- In 2012, Veterans Transitional Housing grants were received to set aside 8 beds in the Community Shelter for veterans and their families. A specialist helps vets with their goals and life skills. Veterans can stay on that program for up to 2 years.
- The Southwest Safehouse is the domestic violence shelter located at an undisclosed location for women, children, and now men. A 6-week stay is available, and service providers such as Axis, Alternative Horizons, and SW Center for Independence make on-site visits weekly. There are also a women's group and kids group. A new mandate requires that male victims of domestic violence be allowed at the safehouse. This was a concern for some of the women, but so far it has worked out well. There have been two men since last October. All guests are assigned a case manager. Guests can apply for an extended stay. The length of stay can be flexible, usually up to three months. Rent is not charged; residents do not need to seek employment. Between 2016 and 2017, the number of guests has increased by 38%. It is a no-turn-away shelter with 23 beds and a maximum capacity of 36.

- The Home Again Partnership Program started out as a 20 month pilot program. They will hear in August if they will get additional “Victims of Crime Act” funding. It focuses on housing coordination for victims of crime (any crime). They are still experimenting with guidelines for the program. 16 people have been served so far.

The homeless population has been changing nationally. Many people simply cannot find housing they can afford. Mental health and substance abuse make some people “unhousable”. Permanent Supportive Housing would be a good solution because it also would offer supportive services with housing.

Social Isolation Project

The Behavioral Health Team coordinated by CHAC has been developing a grant over the past few months to “reduce loneliness among adults 50 and over in La Plata County.” The strategy is to increase social connectedness. We will hear from the *Next 50 Initiative* in December if we have been funded. It would be a 2-year project that starts in January.

Updates and Networking

Kari Plante – The next Oral Health Coalition meeting will be July 30, 11:30 to 1:00 in the Larkspur conference room at SJBPH. Lunch will be provided. RSVP to Kari at kplante@sibpublichealth.org. They will develop postcards of oral health resources to be distributed to agencies in the future.

Scott Wallace – CORHIO is pursuing a pilot project with CHAC’s ACP initiative. Technology is being developed that would support ACP by developing a linkage with a vendor that would maintain a registry to enable patients and their families to create, enter, record and store ACP documents. Providers would have access to the documents to make entries and receive information while operating within their EHR.

Anne Dizenzo – The Senior Reach program is for adults age 60 and over. Care coordination and individual counseling is provided in a person’s home. Referrals are made by Mercy, SJBPH, Axis as well as community members such as friends, neighbors, store clerks, etc. The referral line is 970-335-2217 or call Anne direct at 403-4824. Up to 3 visits can be made at no charge to do an assessment. It is funded by the state Office of Behavioral Health. If the person enrolls in services, Medicare, Medicaid or private insurance takes over. Anne can also give presentations to organizations about the program.

pattie adler – Everyone is invited to the CHAC table. Annual memberships are always welcome and are available for \$25 per individual and \$75 per organization.

Missy Krause – Mercy is starting a spiritual care support group for past and current LINK participants starting in October. How to build trust and how to find a sense of belonging will be included in the topics.

The next monthly CHAC meeting is scheduled for August 10, 8:30-10:00 a.m. at the Durango Rec. Center. A presentation about Axis outpatient services will be given by Shelley Millsap.

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