

STATE OFFICE OF RURAL HEALTH
ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, August 28, 2012

Presiding: Steve Barber, Chairman

Present: O.J. Booker
Ajay Gehlot
Robin Rau
Jennie Wren Denmark
Sandra Daniel
Ann Addison
LaDon Toole

Absent: Grace Newsome
Gregory Dent
Stuart Tedders

SORH Staff: Charles Owens, Ex-Officio
Tiffany Hardin, Director, Director, Migrant & Homeless Programs/SORH
Sheryl McCoy, Recording Secretary

Visitors:

Opening Remarks:

The regular scheduled meeting of the State Office of Rural Health (SORH) Advisory Board was held at Community Health Works, Macon, Georgia, Thursday, August 28, 2012. The meeting convened at 10:35 a.m. Steve Barber, Chairman, called the meeting to order and welcomed the Board members.

Chairman Barber asked for approval of the February 2, 2012 meeting minutes. The minutes of the meeting was approved as submitted.

Chairman Barber gave the members an opportunity to share things happening in their communities.

Jennie Wren Denmark shared they re-opened their dental clinic. They will be rotating Medical College of Georgia (MCG) dental students and dental hygienist from South Georgia Technical College. The program is running very smoothly. The project developed because of partnerships with free clinics, churches and hospital working together to make it happen.

Sandra Daniel shared a new program at Georgia Southwestern College. The School of Nursing now occupies a newly constructed building, The Rosalynn Carter Health & Human Science Building. It is a simulation learning center designed as a 10-bed “hospital like environment” arranged as 3 simulation areas: (1) Acute care/ICU/ (2) Trauma and ED, (3) and Pediatrics/Labor and Delivery. Their goal is to network with clinical agencies in rural areas to provide practice education and credentialing for health care providers (nurses, physicians, allied health providers.)

Robin Rau talked about a new partnership with Calhoun County. As a result of the Rural Health Network Grant project, doors opened to partner with Calhoun County to address some of their health care challenges. The Network grant dividends are still ongoing and working. Robin reported they are also starting a dental program within the hospital and a spin-off to Long-Term Care. They believe this will be a tremendous asset to their health care system. Robin said Ladon Toole has been instrumental in the development of this program.

Ladon Toole stated that Pediatric Dentists are in need of Operating Room space in hospitals for dental surgery. Miller County hospital was able to provide that service for them. Grady General has recently focused on the need for a pulmonary rehab program. The program serves three surrounding counties. He said recently he attended the Georgia Hospital Association, Center for Rural Health Meeting, and the meeting gave him a better vision of how large health care systems can bond with small health care systems to create a more efficient network of quality health care for rural areas. The Affordable Care Act is changing the way health care functions.

Robin commented that in past years it was a challenge to get hospitals to work together, but now they are putting politics aside and building relationships.

Ladon also reported they have completed an Imaging Center with digital mammogram, CT and MRI.

Ajah Gehlot announced the opening of two new clinics in his network. The new clinics are located in Byron and Montezuma.

Ann Addison shared the Thomasville site was recently invited to participate in the Medicare demonstration project. Both sites, Thomasville and Blakely, will receive Medical Home designation funding by March, 2014.

O.J. Booker reported they are extending Behavioral and Mental health care to the Athens Community Health Clinic. They are looking for other technical assistance and planning grants to further extend that concept in other areas. One problem they have encountered is with sustainability of the project. There is a need for a critical match to keep the program operating when grant money goes away. They are working to find ways to sustain the program.

Steve Barber gave a presentation on the completion of the new Ty Cobb Regional Medical Center located in Lavonia, Georgia. Highlights from the presentation are:

- Vision – to provide an opportunity for communities to significantly redesign and integrate local and regional systems based on consumer needs and encourages economic development and innovation through the redesign of multi-county health care systems toward the establishment of Regional Health Care Systems (RHCS).
- Project partners are Ty Cobb Systems, Inc. and North Georgia Ty Cobb (NGTC) Health Properties, LLC
 - Ty Cobb Systems, Inc. consists of the Hospital Division, Senior Living Division and other health care components.
 - NGTC Health Properties, LLC consists of physicians, local primary care physicians and regional specialty physicians
- The partnership means:
 - Physicians and physician groups who are invested in the future of the local healthcare system
 - Local access to quality specialty care
 - Increased access to specialty procedures and surgeries
 - Modern, top-quality healthcare facilities and services
- The new model creates financial efficiency and community benefits
- New concept elements:
 - fitness center located within the hospital for employees and community
 - Promotes the wellness plan already in existence and benefits the employees

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- Brings the community to the location of the hospital
- The new model has a strong balance sheet for success

There were several complimentary comments from the Board members on a job well done.

Charles Owens shared a few points on Community Needs Health Assessments in the absence of Stuart Tedders:

- The Community Needs Health Assessments is an IRS mandate that requires hospitals holding non-profit 501(c)3 status to conduct a community health needs assessment every three years to begin in 2012
- Definition – a planned and methodical approach to identifying a profile of problems and assets
 - The process by which program planners identify gaps or discrepancies between a real state and an ideal state
- Community Needs Health Assessments allow us to illustrate community priorities, validate the need for health initiatives, develop effective health promotion strategies, identify and leverage community resources
- Should be broad based to involve all populations
- Submit to IRS to demonstration of community benefit in support of their non-profit status
- Deadline is at the close of your fiscal year after March 28, 2013

Charles then led the members in a discussion to see if there are areas they need help and how their assessments are developing. The discussion gave a better understanding as to who should participate, why they should participate and how it will benefit their communities.

Robin Rau and LaDon Toole have been very successful with great community participation in their areas of service. However, it was concluded that many of the hospitals are struggling with recruiting community participants to the table as required.

Charles also gave a report from the State Office of Rural Health (SORH). He shared a few points about the budget for FY 2013:

- AHEC awarded \$693,750 – increase housing resources to support community-based training of medical students in their 3rd and 4th year training
- GAPHC awarded \$750,000 – FQHC development for Whitfield (GA Mountains), Randolph (AAPHC) and Butts (Southside)
- SE Firefighters - \$50,000 on hold

Oral Health Summit:

- 100+ people attended, including Dental Association and GA Southern University
- Discussed obstacles
 - Find locations where dental clinics are sustainable
 - Reimbursements for Medicaid too low
 - GA one of the most restrictive on dental rules and regulations for Dental Hygentists

Charles announced that the Georgia Rural Health Association (GRHA) is holding a 2012 Coding Certification Bootcamp on October 24-26, at Archbold Memorial Hospital, Williams Auditorium.

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The GRHA 2012 Annual Conference will be held September 17-19 at Callaway Gardens. Also, the GA Alliance of Community Hospitals & GRHA will hold the First Annual Medical Fair, October 12-13 at the Ritz-Carlton Lodge, Reynolds Plantation.

Charles gave kudos to Tiffany Hardin and Jennie Wren Denmark for submitting application for new Migrant sites in Wayne and Appling counties. SORH Migrant program has \$625,000 to serve those communities. The Migrant program was awarded \$3,376,285 – a \$625k increase.

Tiffany Hardin, Director, SORH Migrant and Homeless Programs, reported that South Central Primary Care will be holding a dental fair this month and Decatur County will be having their Fall project soon. These projects will increase the medical/dental encounters and provide great opportunity to not only provide patient screening, but also patient education about the availability of health care for the workers. The Migrant Program is exploring options for an Electronic Health Record (EHR). The difficulty is finding one that will meet everyone's need and be cost effective.

Charles stated that the HPSA designations are due by September 30, 2012 and are nearly complete. The Primary Care Office continues to work utilizing the 3RNET. There are 86 position vacancies posted at present. The SORH/PCO has recommended 16 J-1 physicians during FY2012.

Patsy Whaley is attending the EMS Leadership Training at Lake Blackshear, Georgia. The training has been very successful with excellent participation from 20 EMS communities.

So far our Federal grants have been increased or at least level funded. The SORH office is being asked for a 3% state budget cut again this year.

Charles reminded the members that Board member, David Zammit, has moved to Florida leaving a vacancy and four members terms are up in January. The members whose terms are up may be recommended to Commissioner Cook for re-appointed if they so desire. We welcome any recommendations from Board members.

Charles thanked everyone for attending the meeting. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Respectively,

Chairman

Secretary

Recording Secretary

Date Approved

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