

Minutes
Communities Connect Membership Meeting
Friday, January 9, 2009
10:00am – 11:00 a.m.

Participants: Holly Greenwood, CHOICE Regional Health Network, Jesus Hernandez, Community Choice Healthcare Network; Brooke DuBois, Benton Franklin Health Alliance; Diane Morton, Skagit Valley Hospital; Kerri Lenderman, Whatcom Alliance for Healthcare Access; Jackie Saul, Whatcom Alliance for Healthcare Access, Kristen West, CHOICE Regional Health Network; Ralph DeCristoforo, Community-Minded Enterprises; Patty Hayes, WithinReach

Meeting Objectives

- Update on Community Collaborative Grant re-authorization
- Review of Governor's budget
- Identify next steps for legislative strategy

Minutes

Introductions and Agenda Review

2009 Legislative Strategy Development

- Community Health Collaborative Grant Program

Holly and Kristen spoke with Dennis Martin who indicated that the Community Health Collaborative Grant Program is not secured in the Governor's budget, although we are not certain of this. Kristen and Holly also met with someone in Senator Keiser's office; Senator Keiser is drafting a bill to continue funding. Holly has requested that they allow Communities Connect review the bill before it is presented; and has requested that she and Jesus meet with Senator Keiser next week. Holly stated that Communities Connect may also be able to provide public comment at the Health and Community Services meeting the week of January 19. She has a call into Rhoda (Healthcare committee staff) to set this up. Kerri indicated WAHA is still interested in the Community Collaborative Grant program. Sue is meeting with Kelli Linville next week and plans to speak to her about this program. Kristen recommends that Sue be given a draft of the language that Communities Connect has developed.

Jesus mentioned a Citizens Workgroup on Healthcare Reform that the governor is developing and asked if anyone has been invited to participate. Gov. Gregoire will be appointing participants to this group. Applications are being accepted for participants – and the group agreed that it would be good to have Communities Connect represented on this group. Patty volunteered to apply after we get more information on the meeting schedule.

Governor's Budget

- High-level overview of Governor's budgets

Patty has reviewed the budget and shared some key points. For the first time agencies were asked to make cuts or end contracts by end of December, which didn't allow time for the legislature to look at budgets and set priorities. The per application payment for the Apple Health for Kids program was discontinued at the end of 2008. Almost all the budget provisos that drive DSHS have been cut and this has led to the cut of many programs. Several cuts proposed by the governor have large federal implications that have not yet been identified, such as inter-program dependencies where funds from one program are used to match other programs. Patty is trying to identify some of these dependencies, and although many of these don't directly impact Communities Connect they do impact members who work with families. Patty will continue to look into this and report back to the executive committee. Holly also noted that there is a supplemental budget through the end of 2009, with immediate cuts to the 09-11 budget. She sent out an email with a list of cuts of interest to members and she will continue to keep members updated. Our next step is to figure out what these cuts will look like – for example we know that HCA received cuts but we don't know for which programs. We will also be looking at the Senate and House budgets as they are made available.

Additional agenda item:**Membership Dues & Dues cycle**

At the last membership meeting we discussed the budget deficit and ideas to fill this gap. Lisa Podell from King County suggested getting on an annual cycle for membership dues. This was then discussed by the executive committee, who agreed to bring this to the membership for a vote. Additionally, when new members join mid-year their dues will be pro-rated for the remainder of that 12-month period, starting with members who joined in 2008. Two motions were presented:

- 1 – prorate dues for new members
- 2 – move to annual dues cycle

The motions were made by Ralph and seconded by Patty, and approved unanimously.

New members from 2008 will be given a credit towards their 2009 dues. There were four new members and the cost to Communities Connect will be approximately \$1000. It was asked that any new members who are able pay the full amount.

Review of Next Steps:

- **Next General Membership Meeting: February 13, 2009**