

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

Present: Holly Greenwood & Kristen West, CHOICE Regional Health Network; Patty Hayes, WithinReach; Diane Morton, Skagit Valley Hospital; Ralph DeCristoforo, Community-Minded Enterprises; Kerri Lenderman, Jackie Saul & Sue Sharpe, Whatcom Alliance for Healthcare Access; Marilyn Andrews, Molina; Jesus Hernandez, Community Choice Healthcare Network; Lisa Podell, King County Children's Health Initiative
 Guest: Sofia Aragon, WA State Nurses Association

Meeting Objectives

- Overview of the Governor's Budget
- Prep for 2010 Legislative Session
- Update on CCAQI/Health Care Reform

Agenda

<i>Topic (Desired Outcome)</i>	<i>Purpose</i>	<i>Leader</i>
Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agenda Review 	Info	Holly
Member Spotlight <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ralph DeCristoforo, Community-Minded Enterprises (CME) <p>Ralph explained that CME is an umbrella organization; he works specifically for its Community Health initiative, a proactive healthcare access project. While not directly connected with clinics or providers, he does work closely with them. Funding, and therefore staff, for Ralph's program has flourished and waned over the past few years.</p> <p>CME's Community Health initiative applied for and received the Federal CHIPRA grant to outreach work in Spokane and eight surrounding counties. Their goal is to enroll 3,000 children and pregnant women in Medicaid, CHIP, or a maternity program through application assistance and retention. They are doing community education through PSA's and reaching out to minority communities with volunteers who will work within those communities, along with working with schools and childcare providers to do outreach in the other eight counties.</p> <p>CME is producing three 15-minute DVD's for community outreach. The topics are: programs and applications, health benefits and the necessity of having a medical home, and a training video for professionals about determining eligibility and completing applications. Ralph hopes these will be made available online for other members interested in utilizing them.</p> <p>Ralph is developing an MOU with the state to get more feedback about printed applications. CME received funding from the Regence Foundation to do application assistance on adult applications. They have applied for the HCA Community Healthcare Collaborative grant (Ralph recently learned that the notification date was pushed from 12/7/09 to 12/14/09).</p> <p>Other CME areas of focus are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equity and Diversity division: helps individuals receiving SSI to return to work through the Ticket to Work program (national legislation to help people with disabilities gain employment), • Family Resource division: licensed childcare referrals and special projects such as childcare for individuals receiving substance abuse treatment, • Community Based Economic Development division: employment training for minorities, • Community-Minded Television ("Public access with a conscience"): CME took over a public access station and uses it to air trainings and community information, • Biodiesel project in Central WA. <p>More information on each of these programs can be found at http://www.community-minded.org/.</p>	Info	Holly

<p>Prep 2010 Legislative Session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintaining Momentum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basic Health Children's Access <p>Holly noted that this is not a good year for new initiatives, and that Communities Connect would like to maintain its current momentum by focusing on keeping Basic Health and children's healthcare access in the budget.</p> <p>Kristen asked if the HCA Community Health Care Collaborative grant program was cut from Governor Gregoire's budget. No one has heard anything to indicate this (Patty looked specifically for it in the list of cuts), although the group agreed someone should contact HCA for verification.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provider One Access <p>Organizations that work with clients will no longer have access to certain DSHS client information once the transition from coupons to Provider One cards happens. It is now believed that Provider One implementation will be delayed until April. Kerri has been told non-providers will not have access to Provider One, although recent conversations indicate that DSHS is aware of this issue for community organizations. The Children's Alliance and the Apple Health Advisory group are also addressing this issue with DSHS. Holly will be sending a letter to DSHS on behalf of Communities Connect members. She is aware that Mary Anne Lindebladt has requested that Alan Hemsel also look into the issue, and Alan has already been in contact with Kerri for more information. The group discussed if Holly should follow up with Mary Wood rather than Mary Anne Lindebladt and it was agreed Mary Anne Lindebladt should be the main contact, however, both Alan and Mary Wood should be cc'ed on any correspondence about this issue.</p> <p>Patty recommended Diane send a letter as a provider. Holly will draft this and forward it to Diane.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> B & O Provider Tax Credit <p>This tax credit for providers donating to Project Access programs has been discussed, but is not likely to have much traction in this year's legislative session due to the governor's priority of closing tax loopholes. This type of legislation has been introduced to the legislature before and did not pass. Today's group discussed that it may be a sign of support to donating Project Access providers if Communities Connect supports this legislation, however, it was ultimately agreed that Communities Connect should not promote a program that is counter to the governor's efforts of increasing revenues. Holly noted that Representative John Driscoll, also with Spokane County Project Access, is doing more research and Holly will forward any additional information as it is made available.</p> <p>Federal Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CCAQI and Health Care Reform <p>The CCAQI legislation was successfully added to the House healthcare reform bill, although it is now known as Community Based Services Act.</p>	<p>Discussion Decision/ Identify Next Steps</p>	<p>Holly</p> <p>Kerri / Patty</p> <p>Holly</p> <p>Kristen</p>
<p>Monthly Hot Topic- Governor's Budget Review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guest Speaker: Sofia Aragon, JD, RN Senior Governmental Affairs Advisor Washington State Nurses Association <p>Patty introduced Sofia and noted she is a nurse and nurse attorney and works with the Washington State Nurses Association. She has an extensive public health and health care systems background.</p> <p>Sofia noted the state is facing \$2.6 billion deficit. The governor's budget is legally required to be balanced, although some funds from the state rainy day fund were used. Cuts were made primarily in health and human service programs as other areas are constitutionally protected or linked to federal funds. The governor has stated she is not in favor of this budget hopes any negative feedback will spur action from the legislature. Governor Gregoire hopes to draft a "Book Two" of the budget that includes additional revenue sources approved by the legislature and less program cuts. Among the long list of cuts, of particular concern are Basic Health, GAU and Maternity Support services. Governor Gregoire has a wish list of approximately \$700 million in services cut from her budget that she would like to "buy back" (Sofia will forward this list to Patty and Holly),</p>	<p>Info</p>	<p>Patty</p>

<p>including Basic Health (number one on the list), GAU and possibly Maternity Support services. Sofia noted that in general, if a program was optional under Medicaid, it was cut, including children's services. Eligibility for Apple Health was cut to 205% of the Federal Poverty Level, the minimal federal requirement. Sofia noted the governor's top revenue priority is closing tax loopholes, including the proposed B&O tax cut.</p> <p>Patty noted that in order to make cuts to Basic Health or to change the Apple Health eligibility requirement to 205% FPL, statutory changes must be made. She has learned from Jonathan Seib that he has not been asked to draft these changes. Jane Beyer, Senior Counsel to the Democratic Caucus has stated the goal is to make only budgetary changes without statutory changes. Additionally, Sofia noted the governor and legislature may be willing to amend initiative 960.</p>		
<p>Review of Next Steps</p> <p>Follow up from today's meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Holly will contact Jan Olmstead and Loly Reyes-Gonzalez regarding if funding for the Community Healthcare Collaborative grant program has been cut. Sofia will be forwarding Holly the list of Governor Gregoire's items to "buy back," and Holly will send this out to membership. Holly will draft a letter on behalf of Communities Connect members to DSHS regarding concerns with ProviderOne; she will forward it to membership. Holly will also draft a letter for Diane's organization to send on behalf of providers. <p>Holly acknowledged that today is Jesus Hernandez's last meeting serving as chair. Patty Hayes will be assuming the role of chair in January.</p> <p>Next General Membership Meeting: January 8, 2010</p>		Jesus