

Minutes
Communities Connect Membership Meeting
Friday, December 12, 2008
10:00-11:00 a.m.

Participants: Kristen West, CHOICE Regional Healthcare Network; Diane Morton, Skagit Valley Hospital; Holly Greenwood, CHOICE Regional Healthcare Network; Marilyn Andrews, Molina Healthcare; Ralph DeCristoforo, Community-Minded Enterprises; Lisa Podell, King County Children's Health Initiative; Brooke DuBois, Benton-Franklin Community Health Alliance; Patty Hayes, WithinReach; Jackie Saul, Whatcom Alliance for Healthcare Access

Meeting Objectives

- Finalize language and priorities for 2009 Legislative Session
- Develop strategy for soft revenues for 2009 budget

Minutes

Introductions and Agenda Review

2009 Legislative Agenda & Preparation

- Review of CC Legislative Priorities
- Community Collaborative Grant Program
 - Next action steps
 - Meeting with Edith Rice 12/18 Senate Health Care Committee Staff
- Update on HIP and other recent cuts

The 2009 Legislative Priorities were sent out earlier this week, and are attached below. Holly gave a brief background on the Community Collaborative grant program. This funding resulted in a \$10:\$1 return on investment and has been received very favorably by the legislature. Senator Keiser had championed this program and would like to see a budget proviso to continue funding in the 2009 budget. A meeting is scheduled with Edith Rice, staff with the Senate Healthcare Committee next week.

Ralph reported that CME has recently had a legislative meeting with their local representatives. They emphasized what the costs of not doing a program are versus the costs of operating a program. Holly and Kristen have had similar conversations with Jane Beyer and Dave Knutson. The key is that communications should indicate cost savings to the state.

At the Federal level, Kristen reported that Senator Murray plans to reintroduce HCAP funding. She also received a request for information from Earl Fox of President Elect Obama's healthcare transition team. Ralph noted a request on Obama's website asking communities to hold community meetings and Secretary of Health and Human Services Nominee, Tom Daschle, may attend some of these meetings.

If the Community Collaborative grant program is re-funded, Holly believes the funds would be for new grantees and not necessarily just for current grantees, although there would be funding to close a gap for current grantees. Kristen reported that Dennis Martin stated that if the full \$4 million doesn't come through, the funding may just be used to extend funding to current grantees.

The Health Insurance Partnership program, scheduled to take effect 1/1/09, has been discontinued. It was reported that General Assistance Unemployable (GAU), children's outreach and the SHIBA program are also at risk for cuts. Basic Health has cut 7500 slots, which will be discontinued by attrition - for every 2 people that go off Basic Health, only 1 person will come back on.

The governor's budget is scheduled to come out December 18. Patty has volunteered to take the lead in reviewing it, with assistance from Holly.

Group Health Grant Outcomes Project

- Update on work by John Gilvar
- Discussion of how these outcomes will impact Community Collaborative grant program

Holly updated the group on the Group Health grant we received one year ago – the 2 goals were to hold an annual conference, which took place in June, and to develop Community Health Outcomes. We contracted with John Gilvar to research other programs throughout the country and develop these outcomes. The draft report was sent out and is attached below. The group agreed these outcomes are clear and will benefit of all organizations using these consistent outcomes when seeking funding. Brooke noted that the processes maybe easier to use in metropolitan areas because they are sorted by zip code, where as there in more rural isolated areas there are more pockets of measurement than just by zip code. Lisa suggested tracking by census code rather than by zip, if this information is available.

Holly asked for everyone to review this document if they haven't already and send her feedback. A final report will be submitted to Group Health within the next 30 days.

2009 Budget and Financials

- Develop plan for soft revenues
- Update on potential funding from Group Health

Jackie informed the group that the 2009 budget was approved at the last meeting and she can forward a copy to anyone who has not yet received it. There is a need for approximately \$20,000 in soft revenues, primarily to fund the Coordinator position. Sue has met with Group Health and we are still unsure if they are going to provide funding for the position. Kristen also suggested approaching the Washington Health Foundation to gauge their interest in supporting this position and Communities Connect. Holly will ask Sallie and Jesus if they are willing to meet with Greg Vigdor to make the ask. Other ideas mentioned were The Gates Foundation (but the group believes they are decreasing their funding to the state), The Paul Allen Foundation (Patty reported that their next grant cycle will not start until August 2009) and the Seattle Foundation. Brooke will also look through her Foundation book and pass along any other options. The group also discussed sending out 2009 dues invoices now, with payment due in January.

Review of Next Steps:

- **Next Meetings:**
 - **General Membership – 1/9/09 10:00am**

Adjourn



2009 Legislative Priorities

1. Continued state funding for the successful Community Health Care Collaborative Grant program of \$4 million for the biennium.
2. Introduce legislation that amends statute to remove the sunset language for the Community Health Care Collaborative Grant program and supports the development of a public/private statewide entity to coordinate technical assistance and outcome measurement among regional community healthcare collaboratives.

In addition Communities Connect supports:

1. Maximize federal SCHIP funds (use the full federal allocation for outreach)
2. Maintain state funding for the following:
 - a. Medicaid eligibility at 300% FPL
 - b. Covering all Kids outreach and linkage to care at \$4.4 million for the biennium
 - c. Patient Navigator program
 - d. Health Insurance Partnership
3. Stabilize public health funding for core infrastructure
4. Fully fund
 - a. Children's Health Law (SB 5093)
 - b. Medical Home (HB 2549)
 - c. Emergency Department Diversion pilots (SB 5093)

Communities Connect Budget CY 2009, approved 11/16/08

Revenue

Notes

Mebership Dues - current members		assumes renewal of all current members
Policy Partner - 2	2,000.00	
Community Partner - 11	6,600.00	
Individual Partner -1	100.00	
Membership Dues - new members - 5	3,000.00	assumes at least 5 new members joining at Community Parnter level
FY 08 Carryover	0.00	
Conference revenues	3,000.00	assumes revenues generated by holding a conference: registration fees and sponsorships less expenses
Private funding for infrastructure/Coordinator position	19,987.51	<i>not secured at this point</i>
Total Revenue	34,687.51	

Expenses

Personnel & Contractual Support		
Admin Coord. Starting 2/08	1,550.00	assumes same rate as 2008
Taxes & Benefits	387.51	assmues rate of 25% for benefits and taxes
Coordinator	30,000.00	\$60,000 salary at .5 FTE
		18 members at \$100 each, less \$500 credit for 2008 overpayment
CJA Membership Dues	1,300.00	
Other Expenses		
Phone Expenses, Conference Calles, etc.	100.00	
Duplicating, Printing	300.00	
Postage and Delivery	100.00	
Office Supplies	100.00	
Mileage	350.00	
Website maintenance	500.00	
Total Expenses	34,687.51	

Revenues over Expenses

0.00