

**Morgan County Healthcare Horizon Council**

*November 20, 2009 7:00 – 9:00 am*

**Meeting Minutes**

The meeting was hosted by Eben Ezer Lutheran Care Center.

**Council Members Present**

Martha Bieber	Sandi Boren
Barbara Bradshaw	Alan Dahms
Dale Ingmire	Kari Linker
Ron Marshall	Mike Patterson
Nancy Schmid	Suzanna Spears
Howard Wickham	
Guest: Denise Denton, Coordinator	

**Minutes**

The minutes of the October 23, 2009 meeting were discussed and approved.

The Members discussed whether or not the minutes should include detail regarding who said what. It was decided that the minutes should include the major points of a discussion, and the Council's final decision, but that names did not need to be included.

**Publicity**

**Website**

Both the ".com" and ".org" name have been acquired and both addresses will reach the Council website. The members agreed that the address to use on all materials is: [MOCOHealthcareHorizon.org](http://MOCOHealthcareHorizon.org). Kari and Carol are finalizing the home page for the website, which will include photographs of Morgan County. The members agreed that the following items should be included on the website:

- Overview of the Horizon Council grant
- Announcements of all public meetings
- Announcements and RSVP directions for RHW meetings
- Health data and reports on Morgan County, as appropriate
- Final reports from RHW process
- Follow up notes, reports, or findings from educational sessions

Denise agreed to provide Morgan County health data and reports for the website. The website should give recognition to The Colorado Health Foundation for start-up funding for the Council.

The members asked that Carol explore the feasibility of creating a "bulletin board" for public comment on the website. One issue to be considered is whether or not submissions would need to be prescreened for appropriateness.

### **Newspaper**

The members asked Barbara to approach the Fort Morgan Times about placing an editorial in the paper. The editorial would promote the RHW meetings, provide additional information about the Council, and, if appropriate, findings from the educational presentation on health insurance costs.

### **Radio Talk Show**

Barbara and Howard reported that their radio presentation about the Council went well. While neither reporting receiving much feedback from the public, the radio station has asked them to provide regular updates.

### **Public Information**

The Members discussed their policy regarding the sharing of Council information. They agreed that anything the Council members come to consensus on can be shared, as well as information provided by the educational presentations.

### **Educational Presentations**

The members selected two topics for the next educational presentations – consumer migration and successful collaborative models. Someone suggested Intermountain Health Care (IHC) in Utah might offer lessons in rural hospital collaboration. The members also expressed interest in learning more about the Healthcare Alliance in Weld County, the collaboration involving Rocky Mountain Health plans in Mesa County, which has received considerable national attention recently, and/or an overview of Colorado’s rural hospitals by the Rural Hospital Council at the Colorado Hospital Association. Denise will work with a few of the members to suggest presenters who would be able to address these topics and present them back to the Council for consideration.

### **Rural Health Works (RHW) Meetings**

The four meetings will be held in the Founders Room at Morgan Community College, which can hold up to 100 people. Denise provided a summary of the expected participation for the meetings. While the meetings are open to the general public, they are not public forums. Each one-hour meeting will have a specific focus and agenda. Ideally, there is a core group or “Steering Committee” that includes 20 to 30 participants that commit to attend all four meetings. This Steering Committee helps to validate the Morgan County data and information collected by the RHW staff.

### **Payroll Information**

Barbara has been compiling health organization payroll information for the RHW staff. Several of the private offices were reluctant to share that information, but she reported that she has been able to collect most of the data, and only has a few more to add. She thanked members for their assistance, particularly Suzanna and Kari. A few additional health organizations or providers were identified – chiropractors, podiatrist, audiologist. Barbara will ask for help as needed because a personal connection can be important in

securing this data. RHW staff will use this data to prepare the Health Economic Impact Report for the first meeting.

**General Publicity and Outreach**

The RHW meetings will be promoted by the Council members themselves, through the website, and the local papers. Denise will prepare a press release for distribution. Barbara will ask the Chambers of Commerce to promote the meeting.

**RSVP Process**

In order for the RHW process to be successful, the members want to know how successful their outreach methods have been in securing Steering Committee members and the general public. They agreed an RSVP mechanism is important. Carol will be asked if there is a way to use the new website for RSVP purposes. With or without the website, Suzanna and Martha agreed to compile RSVP responses. Denise will link them with Carol to determine how best to do this.

**Lunch**

The members agreed that Eben Ezer would prepare simple sack lunches for the meetings.

**Key Participants**

The members identified individuals or groups that should be contacted individually and invited to serve on the RHW Steering Committee. They agreed to make the following connections in the next two weeks:

<b>Key Participant</b>	<b>Inviter</b>	<b>Key Participant</b>	<b>Inviter</b>
<i>Mayor, Fort Morgan</i>	A Dahms	<i>Ministerial Alliance</i>	M Bieber
<i>City Manager, Ft Morgan</i>	A Dahms	<i>Salud – staff and providers</i>	S Boren
<i>City Attorney, Ft. Morgan</i>	A Dahms	<i>Centennial Mental Health</i>	N Schmid
<i>Mayor, Brush</i>	S Spears	<i>NE CO Health Dept</i>	D Denton
<i>City Manager, Brush</i>	S Spears	<i>Marc Ringel, MD</i>	N Schmid
<i>City Attorney, Brush</i>	S Spears	<i>Physician – Fort Morgan</i>	M Patterson
<i>Mayor, Wiggins</i>	B Bradshaw	<i>Dentists</i>	B Bradshaw
<i>Mayor, Log Lane</i>	D Ingmire	<i>Area Agency on Aging</i>	S Spears
<i>County Government Officials</i>	L Teague	<i>Other Nursing Homes and Long Term Care Facilities</i>	B Bradshaw
<i>Dept of Social Services</i>	H Wickham	<i>School Superintendents</i>	S Spears
<i>Older Adults Res Council</i>	S Spears	<i>Sexual Assault Response</i>	A Dahms
<i>Economic Dev Board</i>	K Linker		

**Budget**

Barbara presented the grant budget report, including recent expenditures. It was approved by the Council members.

## **Meeting Evaluation**

The members conducted a self-evaluation of the meeting. The factors that added to the meeting included:

- The detailed agenda and a commitment to stick to it.
- The conference call that Denise arranged with the Insurance Commissioner and her staff.
- The fact that a couple of the Council members had experience in the health insurance field to help focus the insurance discussion.
- The continued volunteerism. Council members readily took on responsibilities for multiple tasks.
- The pre-meeting preparation – notebooks, handouts, etc. – provided by Barbara Bradshaw, as well as the hot breakfast and meeting site.

The factors that detracted from the meeting included:

- Because the agenda was so full, the meeting again felt rushed, but the Members agreed that after the RHW planning, there should be more time for general discussion.
- The fact that the educational session was held at the end of the Council meeting left little time to discuss the implications of the lessons for Morgan County.
- In order to encourage ongoing participation, members should let someone know in advance, if they will not be able to attend a Council meeting.

## **Follow Up**

- *Explore and report on feasibility of bulletin board on website. Carol*
- *Place editorial regarding RHW and Council in newspaper. Barbara*
- *Make sure The Colorado Health Foundation is mentioned on website. Carol/Kari*
- *Provide Morgan County health data and reports for website. Denise*
- *RHW press release to Council Members. Denise*
- *RHW press release to Chambers of Commerce. Barbara*
- *Invite participants to participate on RHW Steering Committee. All Council Members*
- *Set up RSVP process for RHW meeting. Denise/Suzanna/Martha/Carol*

Minutes prepared by: Denise Denton