

Morgan County Healthcare Horizon Council

January 15, 2010 7:00 – 9:00 am

Meeting Minutes

The meeting was hosted by Eben Ezer Lutheran Care Center.

Council Members Present

Sandi Boren	Barbara Bradshaw
Alan Dahms	Kerry Hart
Dale Ingmire	Ron Marshall
Mike Patterson	Linda Thorpe
Suzanna Spears	Laura Teague
Howard Wickham	

Guests:

Denise Denton, Coordinator
Dennis J. O'Malley, Presenter

Welcome New Member

The Council Members welcomed Linda Thorpe, who will be replacing Nancy Schmid as the representative from East Morgan County Hospital.

Minutes

The minutes of the December 2009 meeting approved.

Rural Health Works Meeting

The members discussed the 2nd Rural Health Works (RHW) meeting, which had been held the day before – 1/14/2010. They were all pleased with the turnout (38 participants), the mix of communities and organizations represented, and the participation of the group in helping to design the community survey, which will be administered starting Sunday February 7th. They agreed the Founders Room and it's lay out was a much better setting for an interactive meeting.

Marketing of Survey

As part of the RHW process, a phone survey regarding use of and satisfaction with healthcare services will be conducted in Morgan County beginning Sunday February 7th. The surveyors will make randomly generated phone calls until they have completed 200 surveys. Participation is much better if residents realize the survey is a locally-driven effort, with results presented to the community during the 4th RHW meeting. During the RHW meeting, participants were asked to help spread the word about the survey, encouraging residents to participate. The Council members discussed how they might further announce the survey and reach out to community groups who might be less likely to participate. They discussed using the newspapers, chambers of commerce, radio stations – including the Spanish program, churches, employers, banks, utility

companies, and word-of-mouth. They agreed additional effort was necessary to making sure the Hispanic and Somali residents were informed about the survey and how the information would be used.

Health Services Directory

The RHW staff provided a first draft of a Morgan County Health Services Directory. The initial information was simply taken from a local phone book. RHW staff asked for assistance from the participants in making sure the information was accurate and timely. Council member agreed to take the lead in disseminating the draft, involving the RHW meeting participants, and compiling the revisions. These will be sent to RHW staff by February 10th so they can develop a second draft. Council members were not certain there was value in a printed directory, but understood the potential value of working together to collect the information as part of the RHW process. They will determine how to include the information on the Council website after the directory is completed. RHW will be providing 50 copies once it is completed.

Physician Involvement on Council

The members agree that local physician involvement is crucial. They again tried to identify Morgan County providers that might be willing and able to participate on the Council. They decided to try a different approach and rather than trying to urge a physician to participate in the meetings, they asked representatives of the two hospitals to reach out to the physicians during their regular weekly staff meetings. They will be asked three questions:

1. The Council is conducting a county-wide telephone survey that will help identify health services that are lacking. So you think Morgan County is lacking any health services? If so, which ones?
2. The Council members focusing on improving collaboration and intergration within the county. Where/how could collaboration be improved to help you better serve your patients?
3. The Council will be considering Morgan County's health providers recruitment and retention needs. Do you have any issues they ought to keep in mind?

The hospital representatives will report back to the Council with their findings.

Educational Presentations

Dr. Jack Westfall will be the educational presenter for the February meeting. Two Council members are working with him to assist with his understanding of the Council and their interests. The Council members agreed that the CEO of the North Colorado Health Alliance, Mike Bloom, would present in March. Steve Ward, Colorado Hospital Association, should be asked to present in April. They agreed not to schedule any further presenters after that.

Process Evaluation Results

The members reviewed and discussed the summary of the first quarter process evaluation. They agreed the format and process were valuable and agreed to continue

using it on a quarterly basis. They considered the suggestions made in the evaluation and agreed to:

- Continue to try and engage local physicians in the Council's efforts.
- Highlight any "small successes" or collaborations along with way.
- Explore a way to continue to engage/involve the community after the RHW process; perhaps by starting with a follow-up meeting in April with the same lunch-time format to review RHW findings, report on Council progress, ask for input on topics/issues (if relevant), and seek general suggestions or concerns.

Grant Program Budget

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

Guest Presenter

Denny O'Malley was the guest presenter. His comments are included in an attachment.

Developing a Vision

One clear message the members took from the presentation is the need for a common vision to guide the council and inspire the rest of the community. The members discussed whether or not they should "stay the course" outlined in the grant, or take the time now to explore and develop their vision for Morgan County. They agreed the vision is an integral step toward the creation of a more detailed implementation plan, which they planned to develop later in the grant year. The group agreed that the RHW process will provide valuable input from the community as well as information about their county's healthcare system, and the three scheduled educational presenters – Jack Westfall, North Colorado Health Alliance, and Steve Ward – will offer important insights and information for the Council. They agreed they need to use this input and education in developing their vision statement. The members agreed to try and identify a date in April where they could devote three or four hours to participate in a facilitated process to develop a common vision statement.

Meeting adjourned.

Minutes prepared by: Denise Denton