

DRAFT

Morgan County Healthcare Horizon Council

July 16, 2010

7:00am to 9:00am

Meeting Minutes

Participants

Barbara Bradshaw	John Crosthwait
Alan Dahms	Kari Linker
Mike Patterson	Suzanna Spears
Laura Teague	Howard Wickham

Coordinator: Denise Denton

June Minutes

The minutes of the June meeting were approved. Laura will post them on the Council website.

Grant Program Budget

The revised budget report was reviewed and approved.

Distribution of Vision Paper to Hospital Board Members

Martha had distributed an email verifying that the Vision Paper had been distributed to all Morgan County hospitals' board members: EMCH District Board, EMCH Foundation Board, CPMC Association Board, CPMC Foundation Board, and CPMC Governing Board. Because the Vision Paper had just been distributed, only one Council Member could share a response, which had been positive and encouraging. The Members selected a small subcommittee (Martha, Suzanna, and Howard) to monitor and recommend action regarding the hospital boards if necessary. The Horizon Council's suggestion and their hope is that the board members will at least agree to a joint meeting of the members focused on an educational topic of their choice. Howard suggested that health reform might be a timely topic of interest to all board members. The Council will offer support for this meeting, if requested, or stay out of the process – whichever is most helpful to the outcome.

The Council Members recognized the importance of some additional effort in reaching out to another vital component in Morgan County's healthcare arena - the providers. Barbara agreed to contact Drs. Keller and Ringel to ask their advice on providing an advance copy of the Vision Paper to them.

Distribution of Vision Paper to Media and Morgan County Public

The Council Members agreed to distribute the Vision Paper to the media and to the public two weeks after distribution to the hospital board members. The planned date for release was set as July 26. Laura was asked to take a lead in the distribution, the placement of the vision paper on the Council's website, and to serve as the contact person on the press release. Laura will also try to schedule radio interviews to provide an update on Council activities and discuss the vision.

In conjunction with the Vision Paper, the Council will announce the date of the next public meeting, which will provide an overview and discussion of the Vision Paper and the collaborative projects the Council has identified for further follow up. A tentative

date was set for Friday, August 20, subject to room availability at Morgan Community College.

The Council Members will also host a public meeting in September – tentative date Thursday, September 16 – to provide an interactive overview of the implications of health reform, which will include the use of polling devices to anonymously collect and display feedback of participants.

Collaborative Projects

The Council Members reviewed the key health challenges for Morgan County identified through the phone survey, data collections, and public meetings. They also considered activities or projects that might already be present in Morgan County, which the Council might support. They decided upon the following projects, assigned Council Members for follow up to learn more about what is already going on and explore ways the Council might lend support and/or include a request in their second grant application if an appropriate collaborative effort could be identified.

Primary Care Provider Availability – The issue most frequently identified through multiple means is the availability of basic health services including after-hours care, acceptance of different insurance (public and private), and whether Morgan County has sufficient numbers of providers. The Council will explore the feasibility of conducting an in-depth survey of the availability and accessibility of primary care services. The Council Members asked Denise to take initial lead on this. A first step will include contacting Salud to determine how much of this information they might have already collected or are planning to collect. She will come back to the Council with findings and a proposal.

Recruitment and Retention of Providers – Related to the issue of availability of providers is the recruitment of new providers and the retention of providers already in practice. An initial meeting was held in May, which included representatives from both hospitals, Morgan Community College, Salud Clinic, and a County Commissioner, to discuss how Morgan County could provide additional training opportunities for medical and dental students. This group will continue to meet expand this activity and explore further collaborations and efforts. Kari Linker and Alan Dahms joined the group. Denise will contact the medical school to determine next steps.

Aging and Seniors – John recently received a grant through Northeast Colorado Health Department for senior services. Morgan Community College is also the recipient of two grants addressing senior services. They agreed to learn more about each program and identify ways the Council might support and/or enhance these efforts.

Suicide Prevention/Mental Health First Aid – Laura agreed to follow up with Centennial Mental Health to learn more about their Mental Health First Aid training program, which teaches the general public skills to help someone who is developing a mental health problem or experiencing a mental health crisis. Denise will follow up on a program called the Suicide Prevention Tool Kit, which trains primary care providers to recognize and respond to depression or threats of suicide.

Future Council Meetings

August 20, September 17, and October 15.

Minutes prepared by: Denise Denton