

HEALTH CARE ADVISORY BOARD

Meeting Summary
September 10, 2007

MEMBERS PRESENT

Marlene Blum, Chairman
Bill Finerfrock, Vice Chairman
Rose Chu, Vice Chairman
J. Martin Lebowitz
Rosanne Rodillosso
John Clark
Edna Cruz
Dave West
Francine Jupiter
Ellyn Crawford
Tim Yarborough

STAFF

Sherryn Craig

GUESTS

JoAnne Jorgenson, Health Department
Leslie Johnson, Department of Planning and Zoning
Eileen McLane, Department of Planning and Zoning
Anne Rieger, Inova Health System

The meeting was called to order at 7:41 pm.

Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the June 11, 2007 HCAB meeting were accepted as corrected.

Introductions and Farewells

Two new members of the HCAB were appointed during the summer. Ellyn Crawford was introduced as the new Hunter Mill representative. Francine Jupiter was introduced as the new Mount Vernon representative.

Marlene Blum announced that Edna Cruz, the Sully Representative on the HCAB, had resigned as of September 21, and would be moving to San Antonio. Marlene read a resolution recognizing Edna Cruz's service to the HCAB. John Clark moved the resolution and Dr. Lebowitz seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Zoning

Sherryn Craig provided a brief overview of the Department of Planning and Zoning's (DPZ) application of medical care facilities under the Special Exception Use clause. Previously, a facility was considered a medical care facility if it had permanent beds for patients. As result, building applications for the Springfield and Lorton Healthplex were zoned as office buildings, rather than medical facilities. The HCAB pointed out that using overnight stays as a way to distinguish medical care facilities from doctors' offices was inadequate.

The Board of Supervisors (BOS) directed DPZ to investigate and address the concerns of the HCAB. Representatives of DPZ worked with the HCAB, Inova, and Deputy Chief Snead of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) to revise the existing interpretation of medical care facilities.

Under the new interpretation, a medical care facility is defined as a "24 hour emergency facility, staffed by licensed physicians, and other licensed medical personnel, that receives and treats EMS transported critical care patients with life threatening injuries or illnesses." Eileen McLane felt that the new interpretation provided enough distinction between an urgent care center and a healthplex. She also stated that this new interpretation would guide further zoning and/or expansion applications. The interpretation will be entered into a computer database.

Dr. Lebowitz felt the new interpretation provided a learning opportunity. The healthplex is a hybrid that did not exist ten years ago, and zoning policies need to be flexible enough to address ongoing changes in medical practice.

Bill Finerfrock expressed disappointment in the process used to revise the interpretation. He felt that the issue could have easily been resolved through discussion with the HCAB. He welcomed the opportunity to work collaboratively with DPZ in the future.

Rosanne Rodilosso asked DPZ staff to clarify whether a walk-in ER would constitute a medical facility. Eileen McLane said that DPZ would have to take a long and hard look at such a space because it probably would fall under the interpretation.

Rosanne also asked if the Lorton Healthplex had been completed. To Leslie and Eileen's knowledge, the Lorton facility has not yet been built. However, the Lorton Healthplex was grandfathered into the previous interpretation, as their zoning application had been approved prior to the new interpretation.

With no further questions, Marlene Blum stated that the BOS was looking to the HCAB to respond to the new interpretation.

Dr. Lebowitz made a motion that a memo be drafted stating that the HCAB agreed with the new interpretation and that it was an improvement over previous interpretations. Edna Cruz seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Inova Budget Update

Marlene Blum directed HCAB members to review the summary of the July 16 meeting. Richard Magenheimer, Inova Health System's Chief Financial Officer (CFO), provided an update on the 2006 Fiscal Year (FY) and the first two quarters of FY 2007. Inova is currently operating under budget--\$26 million under in expenses and \$7 million over in income. Unlike last year where volumes were flat, Inova has been experiencing an increase in admissions: Emergency Department (ED) (↑2%), emergency surgery (↑2%), and deliveries (↑1%). Timing issues (e.g. \$8 million in budgeted expenses for the first and second quarters has not been made) also contributed to lower than expected operating costs. Inova has also been able to achieve \$3 million in pharmacy cost-savings because of changes in its formularies and contracts.

Marlene also announced that funding for the Beginning Steps program would be continued. Anne Rieger said that the program was being integrated into Inova's nursing and case management.

Dr. Lebowitz asked that the HCAB seek clarification on Inova's plans to rebuild the tower.

JoAnne Jorgenson asked if the HCAB received clarification on the Springfield/VCU residency program. JoAnne has learned that the residency program does indeed exist. JoAnne will follow up with Inova to find out the status of the program.

Affordable Healthcare Committee Update

Rose Chu provided a brief update on the Affordable Healthcare Committee. She also described the Affordable Healthcare Program for the new HCAB members.

CHCN does not have a wait list for enrollment. There was a question of whether the indigent and uninsured individuals were aware of CHCN resources. Bill Finerfrock asked if the creation of FAMIS had resulted in a decline in immigrant outreach. Rose said she did not know.

Dr. Lebowitz said that in addition to other agency programs, the physician community might not be familiar with CHCN. JoAnne said that the Health Department has reached out to the physician community on pandemic flu, and would add CHCN to the potential list of topics.

A question was asked about physician recruitment. JoAnne said that most of the agency's focus has been on recruiting specialists rather than primary care physicians. Dr. Lebowitz challenged JoAnne/Health Department to develop a bulletin to the medical community that summarized County healthcare programs. JoAnne said that she would defer to Dr. Lebowitz on specific publications the Health Department should target.

Project Access may also mitigate the need for physicians. Project Access is a program developed and run by the Medical Society of Northern Virginia to outreach to physicians who may be interested in volunteering their services to CHCN.

Rose updated the group on the new case management program that is being implemented by CHCN. A Nurse Practitioner (NP) directs this program. 40 patients who have not picked up their prescriptions and 300 high risk diabetes patients have been targeted for case management.

CHCN also provides mental health services in its scope of care. There is a waitlist for patients at specific CHCN sites, depending on Dr. Vargas' schedule.

JoAnne announced that the women's clinic at South County has been so successful, that it will be expanded to North County the middle of next month.

Edna Cruz asked how long Medmark has had the CHCN contract. JoAnne said that Medmark has held the contract for 5 years. The paperwork to extend the contract until December 30, 2008 has been submitted.

Environmental Health Committee Update

Dr. Yarborough provided an update on the Environmental Health Committee. On August 15, Dr. Yarborough met with Tom Crow, Director of Environmental Health. They discussed 4 strategic areas: (1) Preventing the spread of communicable disease; (2) Facilitating access to services; (3) Employing and retaining a skilled and diverse workforce; and (4) Integrating and harnessing technology. Tom recommended that the Committee pick 1-2 areas and 2-4 topics of concentration to report on a monthly basis to the HCAB. The focus will be on topics that have either the greatest impact or urgency for the citizens of Fairfax County.

Marlene Blum asked if Tim felt he needed more people to serve on the Committee. Dr. Yarborough said that he may seek out participants in a couple of months, but currently, the program was not yet ripe for a Committee.

Other Business

JoAnne Jorgenson reported that the FY08 Carryover budget had been approved and the Health Department received funding to hire a new staff person for the Strike Team.

Sherryn Craig will send out a notice to all HCAB members regarding their availability for the October 15 HCAB meeting.

Sherryn will also check on the status of the School Health update for the next HCAB meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 pm.