

HEALTH CARE ADVISORY BOARD

Meeting Summary

March 12, 2012

MEMBERS PRESENT

Marlene Blum, Chairman
Rose Chu, Vice Chairman
Francine Jupiter
Dr. Marty Lebowitz
Dr. Tim Yarboro
Rosanne Rodilloso
Ann Zuvekas
Ellyn Crawford
Susan Conrad

STAFF

Sherryn Craig

GUESTS

Gloria Addo-Ayensu, MD, MPH, Health Department
Rosalyn Foroobar, Health Department
Jennifer Siciliano, Inova Health System

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Marlene Blum at 7:36 p.m.

November Meeting Summary

The minutes from the February 13, 2012 meeting were accepted as presented.

Assisted Listening System

Francine Jupiter and Sherryn Craig met with Brett Cayer, Video Engineer, and Holly Prymak, Manager of Meeting Space Management and Event Support (MSMES) to test the County's Assisted Listening System (ALS). The wall mounted unit appeared to work well during the test period, but the portable system, including the room's wiring, had significant problems. Ms. Prymack will reach out to the contractor who installed and upgraded the ALS.

Resolutions

Marlene Blum read three resolutions, recognizing the service and contributions of two County employees – County Executive Anthony H. Griffin and Director of Environmental Health Thomas Crow – and HCAB Sully District representative, Susan Conrad. The HCAB requested that the resolution commending Tony Griffin be shared with the Board of Supervisors (BOS).

Recommendations on the FY 2013 Advertised Budget

Tim Yarboro, Budget Chair, moved consideration of the health related portions of the County Executive's FY 2013 Advertised Budget followed by discussion on agency line items. Marty Lebowitz seconded the motion.

Health Department

Dr. Yarboro recommended that the HCAB support an increase of \$757, 894 in employee compensation, an increase of \$681,684 to cover the full year impact of the FY 2012 Market Rate Adjustment (MRA), a \$241,777 increase associated with contract rate adjustments, and a \$55,000 reallocation/reduction in Personnel Services to properly align costs within the human services system. Dr. Lebowitz seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Yarboro recommended that the HCAB support a reduction of \$310,813 for the closure of the Braddock Glen Adult Day Health Care Center (ADHC). Rosalyn Foroobar stated that while the closure appears to be a cut, the reduction is actually a program enhancement; enrollment at other ADHC sites is increasing. Rosanne Rodilloso seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Yarboro recommended that the HCAB oppose a reduction of \$143,470 for the elimination of 10 Exempt Status School Health Aides (SHA) Substitutes Positions. Dr. Lebowitz seconded the motion. Ms. Foroobar and Ms. Craig will put together the history of previous reductions in the School Health Program. Ms. Blum noted that the program has been reduced and/or eliminated in prior budgets with funding promptly restored. Dr. Lebowitz cautioned that the County was putting itself in tremendous jeopardy transferring the care of sick and injured children to unqualified persons. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Yarboro recommended that the HCAB oppose a reduction of \$126,600 for the elimination of one contracted Nurse Practitioner (NP) position for the Community Health Care Network (CHCN). Francine Jupiter seconded the motion. Rose Chu amended the motion to support the proposed reduction maintaining that the deployment of Kaiser NPs to the CHCN mitigated the full impact of the reduction. Dr. Lebowitz seconded the amendment. Members expressed concern over the substitution of Kaiser NPs, a temporary enhancement, for a dedicated NP staff person. The amendment failed 2-7. The original motion, to oppose the reduction, carried 7-2.

Fire and Rescue Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

Dr. Yarboro recommended that the HCAB support an increase of \$3,012,338 in employee compensation, an increase of \$2,709,429 to cover the full year impact of the FY 2012 MRA, and an increase of \$521,806 in operating expenses. Dr. Lebowitz seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Yarboro recommended that the HCAB oppose a \$460,668 reduction for the elimination of the Hazmat Support Unit (HSU). Dr. Lebowitz seconded the motion. The HCAB noted that previous attempts to eliminate the HSU have been unsuccessful. The HCAB will also invite Chief Morrison to return to a future meeting to report on the EMS response times and the agency's restructured trainings. The motion carried unanimously.

Department of Family Services

Dr. Yarboro recommended that the HCAB oppose a \$300,000 reduction in Home Based Care funding. Ann Zuvekas seconded the motion, underscoring the accumulated cuts the program had sustained during previous budget cycles. The Home Based Care program serves the frail elderly and the disabled, enabling them to stay in their homes instead of an institutional-based setting. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Yarboro recommended that the HCAB oppose a \$50,000 reduction in DFS' Adult Dental Program. Elyn Crawford seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Yarboro recommended that the HCAB stay neutral on the proposed \$100,000 reduction in contracted case management for Children's Health Access Services. Dr. Lebowitz seconded the motion. Juani Diaz, who attended the HCAB's Committee of the Whole meeting on March 8, maintained that the reduction did not impact the quality or level of service provision. She characterized the cut as a reduction in the agency's flexibility. The motion carried unanimously.

Fund 119 Contributory Fund: Health and Welfare

Dr. Yarboro moved that the HCAB support an increase of \$108,200 to increase the County's funding contributions to the Health Systems Agency (HSA) of Northern Virginia. Dr. Lebowitz seconded the motion. There was some discussion of whether the HCAB should stay neutral on the proposed increase, but Dr. Lebowitz and Dr. Yarboro noted the quality of the HSA's analysis and argued that the agency supports the work of the HCAB. The motion carried.

Dr. Yarboro moved that the HCAB support an increase of \$2,447,789 to increase the County's funding contributions to the Northern Virginia Healthcare Center/Birmingham Green Adult Care Residence. Ms. Blum seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Ms. Blum recommended that the HCAB schedule a presentation on Birmingham Green for a future meeting. Ms. Zuvekas expressed an interest in learning how the facility's personnel costs were broken down and how they compared with other providers in the community.

Ms. Zuvekas moved an amendment that the HCAB state in its memo to the BOS its opportunity to review and consider the alternative program reductions submitted to the County Executive and its strong opposition for these cuts. Dr. Lebowitz seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The prioritization of the HCAB's recommendations was briefly discussed but disregarded.

The HCAB voted on Dr. Yarboro's original motion to review and recommend positions on the health related portions of the County Executive's FY 2013 Advertised Budget with Ms. Zuvekas' amendment. The motion carried unanimously.

Other Business

Ms. Blum reminded the HCAB of an e-mail she forwarded, which included a memo from Deputy County Executive for Human Services, Pat Harrison on behalf of the Human Services Council (HSC) for a May 19 dialogue with the Human Services Advisory Group. All HCAB members are invited.

Ms. Blum also informed the HCAB of THRIVE, an initiative by the Department of Housing and Community Development, the Community Services Board (CSB), the Disability Services Board, and the Redevelopment and Housing Authority (RHA). THRIVE is designed to link services, including health care, to people accessing the County's continuum of housing services.

Ms. Zuvekas will develop and present a draft of potential health care topics that the HCAB may be interested in learning about at the May meeting.

The HCAB is scheduled to meet April 9 to discuss George Mason University's recommendations to the Health Care Reform Task Force (HCRTF).

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm.