

MEETING MINUTES

Westside Healthcare Advisory Task Force

Meeting v.2

May 31, 2007

7PM – 9PM

Patterson Public Library – City of Patterson

The meeting came to order and commenced at 7:02pm.

Stanislaus County Supervisor Jim DeMartini (District 5) opened the discussion with brief comments and purpose statement.

All advisory members self introduced.

[See sign in sheet for attendee reference]

Supervisor DeMartini gave a brief overview of agenda and meeting purpose – continued information sharing and data gathering.

DeMartini reiterated the major and significant long-term effort that this workgroup is undertaking - one that will “take cooperation by and between all” participant authorities and jurisdictions.

Keith Boggs – County Chief Executive Office gave a brief overview of the kick off meeting minutes. There was a general concurrence with the content as presented. There was no formal motion to approve – not applicable.

The workgroup reviewed the working draft of the potential westside healthcare advisory boundary map – this map is a work in progress and will be modified for next meeting to show a more accurate district boundary for the west side health care district.

- **ACTION ITEM:** Working map will be labeled to show functional clinics and locations, hours of operation and services offered.

Supervisor DeMartini inquired to the work group regarding logistical processes – are minutes/packet distributions getting to everyone? The workgroup unanimously agreed that packet and materials distribution is working appropriately.

Chuck Baucom – Merced County gave an update regarding ambulance reimbursement and urgent care facilities – a follow up to a brainstorm point made in meeting one. Mr. Baucom has done some additional research and has found no instance or precedent whereby ambulance services are being reimbursed to any facility other than emergency departments. Mr. Baucom will continue to monitor any and all e-sites and communications for policy or legislative change. He has distributed an all-state e-blast inquiry to healthcare professionals.

There was some comment that perhaps Supervisor DeMartini could discuss this as a speaking point when he meets with Senator Denham in the coming weeks.

Mike Navarro – Hospital Architect made the comment that there are some leeway for working within the law – especially in rural healthcare areas. Legislative Language suggestion: **24X7 Urgent Care as hospital to allow for ambulance cost recovery.**

Michael Grossman – representing the Del Puerto Health Care District followed with a brief PowerPoint presentation highlighting uncompensated care and medical services.

During this presentation – participants from the Golden Valley Health Care Clinics stated that GV has four (4) clinics on the westside.

- **ACTION ITEM:** County staff to check in with Golden Valley team to identify clinic locations and services offered – including hours of operation.

Keith Boggs shared a demographic fact sheet depicting the Oak Valley Health Care District population via census data. The workgroup discussed the similarities between the eastside Oak Valley and the Westside communities. Interestingly, the service area for the Oak Valley District is near 80,000 population when accounting for Riverbank, parts of Modesto in their service area boundary. This is consistent with the previously shared numbers that reflect a population nexus between healthcare feasibility and population base.

Mike Navarro gave a presentation on hospital construction background. Mr. Navarro spoke to the Alfred Alquist Act (early 70's) and SB1953 (1998/9) – both seismic safety acts that have had significant impact on hospital construction and upgrade.

Mr. Navarro shared with the group the construction process in detail:

- Facilities
- Architecture
- State Agencies (OSHPD)
- Contractors
- Inspectors

Demand for inspectors and various specialty knowledge workers have had major impacts on the cost escalation in the hospital construction arena. Cost per bed estimates with all component costs included is nearing \$2 million per bed ranges.

In addition to soaring construction costs – time to build and the slow approval process is impacting budgets and abilities to stay within project cost estimates. The average construction window is between 5 and 6 years from decision to construct to new building.

Mr. Navarro talked about the opportunity to build incrementally. He discussed the creative use of skilled nursing as part of a sound business plan.

After the Navarro discussion – the group discussed in general some of the phase I opportunities that should be central focus. The conversation came back to 24-hour urgent care facilities and better communication by and between the healthcare entities on the westside.

There was a request for any and all strategic plan documents to be shared with the workgroup.

- Del Puerto did a strategic plan document in 2002 – that was requested.
- Golden Valley was asked for their most current strategic plan document as well.

- **ACTION ITEM:** These will be shared with the work group once received – attachment with next meeting packet.

There was some discussion regarding short, mid and long-term workgroup focus. The idea was suggested that a workgroup survey be conducted to glean the general sense of direction and phasing.

- **ACTION ITEM:** A short survey will be prepared to inquire to focus and workgroup priority

County staff suggested that Golden Valley, Del Puerto and others identify the current system of care on the westside – to include all healthcare entities. This could be utilized as a needs assessment beginning to help identify where there may be GAPS and how all participant providers may be able to work more closely with one another to address those gaps.

- **ACTION ITEM:** County staff to coordinate with healthcare providers to identify current system of care on the westside of Stanislaus County and northern Merced County (Gustine)

Newman City Councilman stated that this workgroup ought to be brokering education and information to our constituents and suggested a westside healthcare day or healthcare summit. This was very well received by the entire group and will be a discussion point on the next meeting agenda to brainstorm what such a westside healthcare summit might look like?

- **ACTION ITEM:** All task force members – be thinking of westside healthcare summit content – topics – appropriate time – location – services offered – clinics? Vaccinations – sponsorships – message – opportunity to survey/ask the community what is viable and important for them!

Workgroup agreed that next meeting should occur in Gustine.
The location will be the Al Goman Community Center in Gustine
741 Linden Avenue,
Gustine, CA 95322

Meeting date is **Thursday July 19th from 7pm – 9pm.**

Meeting reminder and agenda will be distributed one week prior to this meeting.

Meeting was formally adjourned at 9:11 pm