

IMPACT POVERTY TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES

November 12, 2010

Members Present: Sherry Anderson, James Berry, Brenda Brown, Jim Brown, Olivia Burr, Michael Byers, Anitha Davis, Danny Fugate, Randy Greene, Jon Hayden, Tina Hayes, Lisa Heine, Deanna Henschel, Georgann Lookofsky, Patty Mills, Maurie McGarvey, Chris McNeill, Gerry Montgomery, Bill Morgan, Terri Osucha, Marianne Potina, Cal Ross, Charlie Ross, Rosa Scott, Cintia Sutton, Nancy Waldrop, John Williams, Sr., Kristin Williams

Members Absent: Gary Adkisson, Bill Evans, Doug Harnice, James Hudson, Melanie Nunn, John Operle, Stephanie Reese, Mark Rowe, Cynthia Sanderson, Gerald Watkins, Ashley Wright

Unfortunately, Cynthia Alston has regrettably resigned from the Task Force due to some family priorities. We will miss her insight and wish her well.

- I. Welcome and Introduction of Marianne Potina – Kristin Williams
- II. Introduction of Panel Members
 - a. Charlie Ross – Purchase District Health Department
 - i. Mr. Ross discussed the following:
 1. The Health Department encompasses many things including setting Public Health Policy, Surveillance, Communicable Disease Control, Environmental Health, Disaster Response, Prenatal Care, WIC Program, Family Planning, Children & Family Preventative Services and Chronic Disease Management & Support.
 2. Last year statewide local Health Departments provided 800,000 unduplicated services, 1.9 million patient visits and 10 million services.
 3. While the Health Department provides many services such as food service facility inspections, school inspections, hotel inspections the following services in the field of health were provided locally last year:
 - a. 633 Family Planning Visits
 - b. 163 Maternity Visits
 - c. 4569 WIC Visits
 - d. 3941 Immunizations
 - e. 47 Oral Health Visits
 - f. 459 TB Immunizations/Visits
 - g. 156 STD Visits
 - h. 146 Breast & Cervical Cancer Screenings
 - i. 283 Food Service/ Restaurant Inspections
 4. The Program most utilized by low income individuals is the WIC Program
 5. Paducah could be eligible for a Federal Qualified Health Center that could deal with urgent care and more preventative care. This is potentially a political issue with local physicians. Mr. Ross suggested it is time to investigate the feasibility of such a center.
 - ii. Anita Wyatt – St. Nicholas Family Clinic discussed the following:
 - i. Ms. Wyatt discussed the following:
 1. St. Nicholas is a medical facility providing health care to working individuals without health insurance.
 2. The facility provides:
 - a. Physician Visits
 - b. Labs
 - c. Diagnostic Testing
 - d. On-site Medication
 - e. Education

3. St. Nicholas currently maintains 5 paid staff members, and the following volunteer professionals:
 - a. Physicians
 - b. Nurses
 - c. Lab techs
 - d. Pharmacists
 - e. Clerical support
 - f. Screeners
 4. St. Nicholas is serving at 185% poverty level and the policy of the facility is that individuals seeking services from St. Nicholas must be working a minimum of 15 hours per week and bring two paystubs as proof. Other clinics in Kentucky have a 200% of poverty threshold. St. Nicholas is evaluating this.
 5. St. Nicholas receives no federal or state funding. They are 100% privately funded.
 6. Ms. Wyatt feels that there are several things working well at the clinic. They are:
 - a. After realizing the need for more frequent availability of care, a full time nurse practitioner is now available for patient visits.
 - b. Weekly team meetings take place to keep every staff member informed of the status of each patient.
 - c. A researcher was hired to help reduce drug costs.
 - d. The clinic now participates in a Kentucky Prescription Assistance Program which is a data base program maintaining patient drug information that helps streamline paperwork.
 7. Ms. Wyatt feels that there are several issues hindering the clinic's ability to provide the best healthcare possible to low income patients. They are:
 - a. Not enough volunteer physicians
 - b. There are currently 12 physicians volunteering their time on a rotating basis and are available about 50% of the time the clinic is operating. Ms. Wyatt stated this is not enough to serve the number of patients seeking treatment.
 - c. Lack of malpractice insurance is a blockade for utilizing retired doctors in the clinic.
 - d. Even with Health Care Reform there will still be 23 million people without insurance.
 - e. Even though a person may have medical coverage it does not mean they will have access to the care because:
 - i. There aren't enough General Practitioners to meet the demand.
 - ii. Many physicians have stopped receiving Medicare/Medicaid patients.
 8. Ms. Wyatt believes that St. Nicholas Family Clinic is a program that perpetuates the poverty circumstance in Paducah-McCracken County in that there is gap for service between their client population and the next step above. She cited references of patients turning down 25 cent an hour raises because then they would be ineligible for their services and not have access to others.
 9. Ms. Wyatt has a vision of following in the footsteps of a model clinic in Kansas City that is basically a "one-stop-shop" clinic that would provide all aspects of health care in one single location. This would allow a patient to receive all the needed services at one time on the same day, i.e. exams, lab work, prescription distribution, mental health care, etc. This would prevent loss of work and possible worsening of any health condition. This is privately funded venture.
 10. The question was asked, what is the difference in services provided between St. Nicholas Family Clinic and the Health Department? And the answer was that the Health Department does not see patients with illnesses, they are more on the prevention side.
- ii. The next two panelists were introduced. They were:
1. Candy Lawrence – Lourdes Patient Services Rep.
 2. Hannah Allen – District V.P., First Corp/MedAssist
 - a. Ms. Allen stated that First Corp assists the un/underinsured patients with getting into funding programs in order to get provides paid.

- b. As a follow-up to a previous comment Ms. Allen stated that, “just because you have coverage doesn’t mean it pays the bills” because:
 - i. Large deductibles
 - ii. Income limits affect coverage
- c. Ms. Allen informed the panel of a program named DISH that is for those who don’t qualify for other services, entitlement or enrollment programs. The object of DISH is to adjust the amount of the bill.
- d. Ms. Lawrence stated she estimates 80% of the patient visits to the ER are clients utilizing the MedAssist program. About half of all of Lourdes patients are referred to the program.
- e. Ms. Lawrence stated that about 40% of hospital bills incurred by un/underinsured patients are paid utilizing the MedAssist Program.
- f. In response to some of the questions Ms. Potina could not answer this morning she provided the following information after the meeting regarding total service of Lourdes:
 - i. How many patients do we serve in a year?
 - 1. In 2009 Lourdes served 217,803 patients. This number includes emergency room, inpatients, outpatient procedures, homecare visits and hospice visits.
 - 2. Our charity care for 2009 is dollars is \$11,128,077.
- 3. Following the panelists there were comments and discussion that included:
 - a. For those who can afford to not have insurance the current system discourages self pay because of the adjustments for insurance companies.
 - b. Last year there were 16.5 million bankruptcy cases, of those 85% were medical.
 - c. People are declining raises (and sometimes jobs) because it will cause them to be above the income limits to receive Medicaid or local services.
 - d. Where these issues are concerned there are no differences between Lourdes and Western Baptist Hospital.
 - e. There should be help for those who are undereducated with:
 - i. Filling out forms
 - ii. Finding programs for which patients may be eligible or qualify
 - f. Adults are becoming sick with chronic diseases at an earlier age because of their lifestyle as children because of lack of exercise and poor diet.
 - g. We need to have a change in our schools and offer gym classes on a regular basis.
 - h. Within 3 years 1 in 4 people will be on Medicaid program.
 - i. This is not sustainable because the state budget cannot match due to the state of Kentucky economy.
 - ii. The provider community will, more than likely, not accept Medicaid as payment.
 - i. By 2014 Lourdes will need to recruit 42 new Primary Care physicians to keep up with demands on the Medicaid program.
 - j. Children receive preventative dental and vision services up until age 10; after that there are very limited resources.
- iii. Wrap-up – Kristin Williams
 - 1. The United Way Board of Directors voted to fully fund (2) “Getting Ahead” Groups.
 - 2. Kristin discussed moving forward with Facilitator Training for the “Getting Ahead” Groups and offered a handout describing how we will go about that task.
 - 3. Our immediate needs are:
 - a. Names of potential facilitators
 - b. Organizations interested in putting together a Getting Ahead Group and/or submitting names for a Getting Ahead Group
 - c. Locations for the groups to meet, ideally with childcare facilities

4. It was discussed that these groups are the best way to incorporate those individuals living in poverty.
5. It was discussed that the ideal candidates for the participants in these groups are:
 - a. People living in poverty
 - b. Able to meet once per week for 15 weeks for 2.5 hours
 - c. Have commonality
6. The group decided that it would be best to take a break from the panel format for the month of December and have a group discussion to dissect what we have learned so far.
7. Kristin mentioned that some further panel discussions will include:
 - a. Mental Health Issues
 - b. Education
 - c. Crime
 - d. Jobs/Training/Economic Development
 - e. Housing
8. Task Force members were given the opportunity to sign up to do independent research of some of the questions generated thus far. Kristin will email the assignments out the group.
9. The next meeting will take place on December 10, 2010 at 7:30 am, location TBA.