

The purpose of Redwoods Rural Health Center is to provide responsive, preventive, high quality primary health care services, through a variety of healing disciplines, to all people without regard to social or economic status. We emphasize the client's right and responsibility to participate in his or her own health care decisions. It is our hope that the clinic be a place where the needs of the whole person are met--body, mind, and spirit.

**Redwoods Rural Health Center
Board of Directors Meeting
January 22, 2008**

starting after the 5:00PM Finance Committee meeting ends
in the Meeting Room at the Redway clinic site

Board Members Present: Thad Horner, Dee Way, Shon Wellborn, Mary Whitmore, Troy Harrington-Dean, Rick Silva, Kathy Epling

Board Members Absent: Shelby (in Mexico), Michele Hernandez

Staff Present: Eric Fimbres, RRHC Executive Director; Jeanie Eldridge, RRHC CFO; Jim Gergits, RRHC financial analyst; Marilyn Foote, RRHC Behavioral Health Director; Mike Quirk, RRHC Medical Director

President Thad Horner brought the meeting to order at 5:45PM.

The group agreed by consensus that the Agenda be accepted as presented.

Rick Silva said he'd be timekeeper

MOTION: That the minutes of the combined finance committee and board meeting of December 2007 be approved as submitted.

Motion was made by Shon Wellborn and seconded by Mary Whitmore.

MOTION PASSED unanimously

There was no one from the public present to address the board.

Secretary of the board Kathy Epling noted that she had received notification of a community member who is willing to be appointed to the board of directors. Her name is Carol Lee; she was present at the membership meeting. She lives in the Alderpoint region. Unfortunately she is out of the country until March. Kathy felt that the board needs to meet her and speak with her before making any decision about an appointment to the board. Kathy also noted that she had had some conversations with Carol and thought she might make a good board member.

Even if Carol Lee were to be appointed to the board, there is still a potential vacancy needing to be filled.

PRIMARY HEALTHCARE DEPARTMENT

Dr. Quirk reported to the board on matters pertaining to the Medical Department.

His written report was in the board packet, and he reviewed the salient points for the board. Mark Mowrey will begin work as the clinic nurse manager starting the 28th of January; Mandy Battles is back with us for a while as a PA student. Dr. Quirk and his department have articles for the local newspaper under preparation. His article on MRSA has already appeared, others will follow on other concerns or diseases.

Dr. Quirk was thanked for his report and his work for RRHC.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Marilyn Foote reported on the issues and developments within the Behavioral Health Department, drawing the board's attention to the data on follow ups and referrals. Noting that 17 of the clients referred were seen at least twice, Marilyn felt this was a good sign. She said the average number of patient visits in behavioral health nationwide is 3, and that, being an average, includes those who see clinicians weekly. So for our area, having 17 coming in at least twice is good. She noted that in her field it is very difficult to quantify "cure" or success of therapies, but that having people actually come in more than once should be a potential indicator of good care and outreach.

She talked of how the providers are striving for an interdisciplinary therapeutic alliance.

She noted that in the CQI committee billing issues are being scrutinized.

She had brought a copy of the exact wording for the proposed Policy and Procedure for Records Requests—Behavioral Health, and handed it to the board president.

The Policy and Procedure required board approval. Thad read the policy to the board.

MOTION: That the proposed Policy and Procedure for Records Requests in the Behavioral Health department be approved as submitted.

The motion was made by Kathy Epling and seconded by Dee Way.

MOTION PASSED unanimously

A candidate for a position in the Behavioral Health department had recently been on site for interviews with both staff and board. Marilyn indicated that the health center had not heard from her, nor had the health center offered the position to her. Eric Fimbres said the health center would send her a letter of thanks for her visit, wishing her well, and not offering a position to her.

Anne Seaquist is finishing her internship at RRHC.

Marilyn will be taking part in the Challenge Day activities. These activities are happening January 30 and 31; Marilyn will take part on the 31st. Shon Wellborn asked if Marilyn would report back to the board; Marilyn said certainly, but at the March meeting since she will be in Japan in February.

Linda Piehl is out for 6 weeks after knee surgery; Marilyn said that training is undergoing so that some of Linda's vital assessments and helps with various client programs won't be neglected in her time away.

She thanked the board for the good cheer of the Holiday dinner and the bonuses, saying that these were much appreciated by staff.

Marilyn was thanked for her report and her ongoing work for RRHC.

DENTAL DEPARTMENT

Megan McCormack being on vacation, Eric Fimbres referred the board to the written report on the Dental Department in the board packet.

Roger Johnson, a retired dentist who is currently in Weott, will be joining the staff as a locum tenens, working on Mondays.

Recruitment is ongoing for another dentist.

Dr. Blake Olson has risen to excellent productivity and is becoming much involved in the Hispanic community. RRHC is receiving many compliments on his skills and networking.

Megan is doing well cleaning up the coding and the billing. Eric said that the review of Dental fees needs to happen with Megan present to answer board questions and concerns and should be slated for March.

Barb Taylor resigned, sorrowfully, and will be working with Dr. Lewis at his private practice which is much closer to her home. RRHC wishes her well.

Eric commented on the CQI process; he is much pleased with the progress and the interdisciplinary approach and information sharing.

Billing still needs work.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Since Jeanie Eldridge had given such detailed and clear reports in the finance committee, and most of the board had been present, the board thought it not necessary to repeat those.

MOTION: The Financial statements of October 31, 2007 be approved as submitted.

Motion was made by Shon Wellborn and seconded by Rick Silva.

MOTION PASSED unanimously

MOTION: The Financial statements of November 2007 be approved as submitted.

Motion was made by Rick Silva and seconded by Mary Whitmore

MOTION PASSED unanimously

MOTION : The financial statements of December 2007 be approved as submitted.

Motion was made by Rick Silva and seconded by Mary Whitmore.

MOTION PASSED unanimously.

Jim Gergits handed out the Quarterly Report (Oct-Dec 07) on provider productivity. Eric spoke about this report briefly.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Eric mentioned many of his recent endeavors, explained about the low income obesity grant.

He said he and Jeanie had conferenced with someone from the San Diego clinic system hoping to use their system via a t one line, but alas the San Diego people did not receive the hoped for grants. Back to the drawing board for electronic medical records systems; he is looking into a possible lease arrangement.

The website is up and running, and has a function whereby patients may request appointments online.

He spoke of various collaborative endeavors and efforts; work with the Community Health Alliance, the obesity grant which should draw together the schools, public health, and the health center.

The leadership planning retreat is February 1,2,3 offsite.

He has talked with David Katz and is seeking a way for RRHC to include solar energy, or convert to solar energy.

Investigation of the possibility of a Shelter Cove clinic site is ongoing; he has spoken with the recreational district head, and checked out the room that once was used by the hospital district. He said this room doesn't look like it will meet our needs; we will probably need to find or build another place; he spoke of possible grant funding for that effort. Risk management issues between the clinic and the Shelter Cove district are also under scrutiny.

Next stage would be to draft a memorandum of understanding and run it by our lawyers.

Eric went into yet more detail about the obesity/nutrition grant; the money will mostly be used for staffing; hiring of nurses and family support workers; these will be technically RRHC employees.

The hope is to target children, restaurants, markets; possibly to offer a nutrition program (for adults as well), possibly to involve Eureka Pediatrics.

Eric will be an adult leader for Challenge Day January 31.

BOARD RETREAT PLANNING

The board chose the weekend of March 15 and 16 for a planning retreat; location yet to be settled. Gary Bess, who has facilitated in the past, will facilitate this one. He is also helping work on grants (instead of Heather Bonser-Bishop).

AND MORE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Eric is proposing a dental assistant training program, targeting high school students and residents of WISH house. The board thought this a very innovative and exciting possibility.

MOTION; That Marilyn Foote and Megan McCormack be added as signers on the RRHC accounts.

Shon Wellborn made the motion which Dee Way seconded.

MOTION PASSED unanimously

The next Board Meeting will be February 26 immediately following the Finance Committee meeting.

The Finance Committee meeting will start at 5:00PM

The Board Meeting will start at 5:30PM.

The board adjourned into executive session at 6:55PM. It returned to open session at 7:14PM

MOTION: That the meeting be adjourned.

Shon Wellborn made this motion, which Dee Way seconded.

MOTION PASSED, unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15PM.

respectfully submitted, Kathy Epling, board secretary RRHC