

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
February 27, 2008
At the Meeting Room at the Redway Clinic
set to start at 5:30, after the Finance Committee Meeting**

Board Members Present: Thad Horner, Shon Wellborn, Mary Whitmore, Rick Silva, Kathy Epling

Board Members Absent: Shelby (in Mexico); Dee Way (baby due very soon!); Michele Hernandez (who has submitted her resignation from the board); Troy Harrington-Dean (out of town)

Staff Present: Eric Fimbres, RRHC Executive Director; Jeanie Eldridge, RRHC CFO; Mike Quirk, RRHC medical director

Others Present: Pamela Moore, who had expressed interest in possibly joining the board of directors of Redwoods Rural Health Center.

President Thad Horner brought the meeting to order at 5:47.

MOTION: That the agenda be approved as submitted.

The motion was made by Mary Whitmore and seconded by Rick Silva.

MOTION PASSED unanimously

Rick Silva agreed to be timekeeper.

Pamela Moore was invited to introduce herself (and all in the room briefly introduced themselves to her). She is a resident of Ettersburg who has been a client at Redwoods Rural for about 30 years. She has served on other nonprofit boards, and wanted to see how this board functions before deciding if she truly would like to be considered for an appointment to the board.

The board welcomed Pamela to the meeting, thanking her for coming (and for waiting through the long finance committee meeting).

Board Secretary Kathy Epling read a recent letter from Rebecca Apple to Eric Fimbres, which stated her interest in becoming a member of a re energized community advisory committee. Rebecca noted that she had talked with Kathy Epling a number of times about this, but that there has been difficulty finding 3 interested people to form such a committee.

Kathy noted here that she had recently spoken with Ben Schill, a past board member of RRHC, who was still willing to join such a committee; she suggested that possibly she could connect Ben and Rebecca to each other and see if they could form the start of such a committee.

Rebecca's letter continued, noting that she had worked with Tawnya to see that board meeting times and dates were posted at the front desk. She stated that she is a busy mom and that she believes that the community needs birthing and increased pediatric care. She was responding to articles in the newspaper talking of the outflow of patients; part of this, she believed, may be due to the lack of such services. She herself was born in the Garberville hospital and received all her own childhood care here. She said she is grateful for programs like the car seat program, for emergency dollars for families, for free books at the well child exams, and more, and that she hopes we will keep up the good work. She hopes to meet Eric someday.

Eric had responded to Rebecca, and his kind letter was also read to the board by the secretary; he thanked Rebecca and talked of his pride in the staff and board, mentioning our board retreat coming up, and some of the accomplishments of the clinic, as well as his thanks for her generous, kind, and encouraging letter, and his hopes that they might well meet sometime.

MOTION: That the minutes of the January 2008 finance committee meeting be approved as submitted.

The motion was made by Shon Wellborn and seconded by Mary Whitmore.

MOTION PASSED unanimously

MOTION: That the minutes of the January Board Meeting be approved as submitted.

Mary Whitmore made the motion, which was seconded by Shon Wellborn.

MOTION PASSED unanimously

Medical Department Report

Mike Quirk gave a brief report on current happenings in the primary health department. February has brought a lot of flu and "crud" cases said he. He noted the recent Hospice program on KMUD and articles in the local papers as part of the ongoing community outreach in his department.

He told the board that Mark Mowrey is taking on a lot of responsibility, that he is eager to make needed changes in the department and that he seems to be doing well.

Kay Christian attended a Women's Leadership conference.

Dr. Quirk was asked about the meetings at the hospital; how are things going there; he noted that he attends them because he admits patients to the hospital. He said he has a bit more input in the hospital's utilization review committee. The board asked a few

questions about that committee; he said it looks at policies and procedures; costs, and so on.

The board president, Thad Horner, asked how Mary Sanger is doing; Mike noted that RRHC is trying to find more patients for her to visit but that those she is going to see do appreciate the service.

Thad Horner thanked Dr. Quirk for his report.

Behavioral Health

Since Marilyn Foote is in Japan at the moment (and the board wished her well, and wished they could also be there) there was no report on the Behavioral Health Department.

Kathy Epling was concerned about clients who might need those services; Dr. Quirk said that they could be seen in the primary care department although not for counseling per se.

Mary Whitmore said she had just come from a special education meeting in Miranda and that the schools had been told that they must locate potential special needs children before their 3rd birthday, and she felt RRHC could be helpful in this. There was some discussion; Mary will follow up with RRHC. It was clarified that what Redwoods Rural could do would be to inform parents of young children showing developmental delays about the early intervention programs available through the schools and Head Start; contact would be up to the parents.

Administration and Finance

Jeanie Eldridge had a written report in the board packet. Since the January financials are not yet in a final version she didn't report further on these to the board; the situation had been thoroughly discussed in committee.

Shon Wellborn told Jeanie Eldridge that the change to in house payroll was well done; a good move.

Jeanie said that she is very much pleased with Jim Gergits' work for the clinic; he is a real asset.

Shon wanted to know what the January 10th "ask the contractor" training referenced in the written report was about. Eric explained that it had to do with EDS and the new NPI numbers; the "contractor" being the state. The California Primary Care Association (CPCA) has been putting these on; Jeanie said the web trainings are very helpful and allow her to have her staff take part without the expense of travel and lodging. She hopes to use more, and to bring in Amber, the front desk staff person, who is eager to learn more.

MOTION: That the approval of the January 2008 financials be tabled until the March board meeting.

Motion was made by Shon Wellborn and seconded by Rick Silva

MOTION PASSED unanimously

Executive Director's Report

Eric Fimbres spoke of the state cutbacks. The current cuts do not affect Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC's). This 10% cut does not affect clinics like ours who use the PPS (Prospective payment system). But future planned cuts of services would. The programs on the chopping block are Adult Dental, Psychiatric, Optometry. If programs we provide become noneligible for MediCal but are key needs of our community, of course RRHC will attempt to provide them. But providing these on a sliding scale fee basis will have a cost to the health center.

Eric is asking that a 5 year trending analysis be done on the effects of such cuts.

Kathy asked if the cuts are written in stone; Eric said no. Lobbying from the CPCA is happening, as is lobbying from the community and definitely from the RRHC staff.

Eric said he had recently met with Clif Anderson, the school superintendent, and Christina Huff of the Family Resource Center, to talk about details of implementing the recent obesity prevention grant. The current MOU covers the process; staff involved in this program will be under RRHC employment.

Eric noted that the county mental health system was facing a deficit of 1.2 million in funding, but there may be another 3 million in expansion dollars available. The thought at the county level is to use this for adult services, for more structure. There have been many changes in staffing. The new head of county mental health services, Karolyn Stein, is looking at reimbursement and quality control issues.

Eric spoke of other meetings he has attended, such as the Community Health Alliance (CHA) which is also attended by Nancy Wilson. CHA is looking at ways to expand.

The CEO of St Josephs, Joe Mark, and his wife, were in a recent serious accident and remain hospitalized in San Diego.

Open Door reports that they are seeing an increase in visits of around 22K a month and are turning away patients despite having gone to extended hours. This would seem to back up our perception that local SoHum families are seeking care up north rather than at RRHC or at the Garberville hospital and clinic. There was discussion as to why this might be so.

Eric said that he had recently met Dr. Charles Deberg who is involved with an organization called SAGE which seeks to foster business-related projects and learning for

youth. Dr. Deberg wishes to start a local chapter. Eric Fimbres has been asked to be a judge at the next competition in Sacramento and feels honored by the invitation.

Discussion of the changed Dental Fee Schedule is postponed till March, when Megan can be on hand to answer board questions and concerns.

Eric informed the board he has meet again with the head of the Shelter Cove resort improvement district regarding the possibility of opening a clinic in that town. He will be addressing the RID board March 20. He has checked into liabilities, insurance, and so on. The room originally offered will not work well; other possibilities are under consideration.

The Board Planning Retreat will be March 15 and 16th at Tom and Lori's house by the river in lower Redway, facilitated by Gary Bess. This will focus on understanding 330 health centers, board training, and on looking at the requirements for a 330 to have a sliding scale fee structure and what this means to us, both ethically and fiscally. The Board expects some long and impassioned discussion on Sunday.

The retreat will start at 9 AM both days, and directions to the site will be provided beforehand.

Kathy wondered if visitor Pamela Moore, given her interest in the board, might be permitted to come. Discussion ensued. Rick Silva noted that Michele Hernandez has submitted her resignation.

Rick asked Pamela if, after sitting through this meeting, she still had some interest in joining the board. Pamela said yes.

MOTION: That the board adjourn to executive session, asking Eric Fimbres to remain with us, and asking Pamela Moore to kindly wait in the lobby for just a few moments.

Motion was made by Kathy Epling and seconded by Rick Silva.

Motion Passed, unanimously

The board went into executive session at 7:10PM and returned to open session at 7:15PM.

MOTION: In light of Michele Hernandez's resignation from the board of directors of RRHC, that the board appoint Pamela Moore to the Redwoods Rural Board.

The motion was made by Mary Whitmore and seconded by Rick Silva.

MOTION PASSED unanimously.

The board is grateful to Michele for her time with us, and to Pamela for being willing to join us now.

The next Board Meeting will be March 25, 2008 starting after the Finance Committee meeting.

Finance Committee will meet at 5:00PM; Board meeting will start at 5:30PM.

The Board adjourned by general consensus at 7:27PM

respectfully submitted, Kathy Epling, RRHC board secretary.