

*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 Minutes**

**March 24, 2009**

**6:00PM at the Meeting Room at the Redway clinic medical building**

**Board Members Present:** Thad Horner, Janet Fitzgerald, Pamela Moore, Rick Silva, Shon Wellborn, Kathy Epling

**Board Members Absent:** Shelby (in Mexico), Carol Lee (also in Mexico), Sydney King

**Staff Present:** Jim Murphy, Interim ED; Jim Gergits, Operations Manager; Megan McCormack, Dental Director, Kay Christian, FNP

**Others Present:** Harry Jasper, CEO of the Southern Humboldt Community Healthcare District

President Thad Horner brought the meeting to order at 6:00PM. Rick Silva, though suffering from laryngitis, nonetheless offered to be Timekeeper for tonight's meeting.

Jim Gergits had expressed a need to leave before 6:45. In light of this, Thad Horner suggested that the agenda be revised to deal with New Business before Old Business.

Shon Wellborn wished to add permanently to the agenda an Advance Agenda item, to be reviewed before setting the next board meeting.

**MOTION: That the agenda be approved with Thad and Shon's suggestions incorporated into it.**

The motion was made by Shon Wellborn, seconded by Pamela Moore and

**MOTION PASSED unanimously.**

### **Questions, comments, observations on the Departmental and CQI reports**

Rick Silva had noted some unfamiliar acronyms in the behavioral health department written report.

Once more the Board asks that when staff uses acronyms in the very helpful and enlightening reports to the board, they spell out or otherwise define the acronym.

Shon Wellborn wished to report that although she knows the new phone system has issues, nonetheless she was able to navigate it and was very happy not to have to be put on hold.

There was some discussion of the phone system and experiences with it.

Approval of February financials was postponed till these are clarified and revised.

**The other items on the Consent Agenda are:**

Approval of the February board minutes, the February finance committee notes, the March 2009 Division reports, and the March 2009 CQI report.

**MOTION: That the amended Consent Agenda be approved.**

The motion was made by Shon Wellborn and seconded by Janet Fitzgerald.

**MOTION PASSED unanimously**

**Report on State Threat to discontinue Adult Dental as a covered MediCal service**

Jim Murphy updated the board on what he had learned at the Northcoast Clinic Network Meeting which he attended last week with Jeanie Eldridge about the state threat to discontinue Adult Dental as a covered MediCal service.

If the decision is made on April 1 to discontinue Adult Dental, the discontinuance will likely start with the fiscal year, July 1, 2009.

Possible measures that the clinics may take under these dire conditions include possible use of the CMSP funding stream; possibly sending our dental clients through medical (which might help recoup about 30% of our costs), possible use of the S-CHP (sp?) program, which covers family health issues.

There is talk of a class action suit. Any appeals process is likely to be long, and won't restore these payments quickly.

There was some discussion of the situation. Kathy noted that discontinuance of these payments will result in a sort of domino effect that will affect all programs and greatly harm health centers' ability to care for their clients. Further it will greatly harm community health in general, as the most at risk and needy will not receive timely dental care, likely causing potential medical emergencies.

"They're gonna show up in the middle of the night at Harry's ER" she said.

This presents a possible loss for the hospital district as well.

### **Prenatal Care Discussion**

**Jim Murphy noted that he has a special interest in prenatal care offered through health centers.** He understands the potential insurance problems but said some centers offer prenatal care for the first two trimesters with referral to an OB group for the last trimester and delivery.

He said the RRHC staff is quite interested in including prenatal care (so's the Board), and he will investigate the possibilities here.

There was considerable discussion.

**Jim Gergits presented the revised Sliding Scale policy.**

The changes made were to make the policy in conformance with our FQHC application.

One is in the delineation of the borders of our service area (to include Fortuna and Leggett).

The board had no problem with the boundaries as presented in the policy.

Megan McCormack would like to use those boundaries in reopening the availability of dental services to new adult dental clientele. There was much discussion; the board is fully behind the Dental Department decision to carefully reopen to new adult clients and trusts that the department will manage the flow well.

The pending possible discontinuance of MediCal Adult Dental payments was brought up as a potential objection to this, but the board feels strongly that we should offer this very much needed service to the community while we can, and then find other ways to do it if Sacramento cuts it starting July 1.

**Back to the Sliding Scale policy discussion, the board focused on the requirement that people at or under 100% of the federal poverty level come with a signed**

**statement from Humboldt County Social Services that they aren't eligible for MediCal.**

Kathy in particular felt this might be a barrier to care for our clientele, who would have to journey to Eureka and wait, sometimes for months, for a determination.

Harry Jasper thought possibly RRHC and the hospital district might be able to persuade the county to have a worker down here; Pamela Moore believed that one might apply at the public health office in Garberville near the Library.

**Janet Fitzgerald wondered if it was a legal requirement that insured patients are automatically excluded from consideration when determining sliding scale eligibility.**

*Pending answers to questions and concerns, approval of this policy is delayed until a special meeting to be held April 20, a Monday, at 5:00PM, at the health center.*

There was discussion of adding Jim Murphy to the various RRHC bank accounts; while the board felt this is a good idea it will have to wait until Shelby, a signer on the accounts is present to sign the bank cards. This item will also be on the April 20 agenda.

Shon Wellborn desires that Jim Murphy be fully bonded.

**The board would like to know what the current capital limit is.**

Kay Christian updated the board on the situation with the Community Park and the Labyrinth project. There is a possibility the project might go forward in a few weeks, pending some approval from the county of low impact events at the Park.

However, there is a danger that the Park may continue to be closed for months, in which case Kay would like to consider alternative venues, such as right at RRHC. She passed around some very lovely photoshopped photos of how that might look (awesome).

Her preference (and that of most of the board present) is that the Labyrinth be installed as planned at the Park. But she doesn't want to wait forever, and the Humboldt Area Foundation will want to see progress (and receipts).

There was discussion. Kay stated that she is willing to wait until August, but if the Park is not available, still, at that time she wants to go for an alternative. She will be holding some meetings in April to get input from the community.

**Election of Board Officers** proceeded.

**MOTION: That Thad Horner be president of the RRHC Board of Directors.**

The motion was made by Kathy Epling and seconded by Shon Wellborn.

Thad asked if there were other nominations.

There were not.

**Thad was unanimously elected RRHC Board President, once more.**

**MOTION: That Shelby be re elected RRHC Vice President, contingent upon her acceptance of this honor.**

The motion that Shelby be elected VP was made by Shon and seconded by Janet, during discussion Thad pointed out that, since Shelby wasn't here, perhaps something about giving her the option to accept or not might be added.

The amended motion was made by Pamela Moore and seconded by Shon Wellborn.

**Shelby was unanimously re elected as RRHC Board Vice President, pending her approval.**

**MOTION: That Shon Wellborn be re elected RRHC Board Treasurer.**

This motion was made by Kathy Epling and seconded, in lightning quick fashion, by Janet Fitzgerald.

Another nomination was made before this one was voted upon. Shon Wellborn nominated Janet Fitzgerald for the position of Board Treasurer. Although the rest of the board appreciates Janet a great deal, no one seconded this motion.

**The motion that Shon Wellborn be Treasurer passed unanimously**, though Shon hesitated a moment and wanted to be on the record that she hopes Janet will be Board Treasurer next year. Janet noted that she has to run for the board first. (since her term expires)

**MOTION: That Kathy Epling be re elected RRHC Board Secretary.**

The Motion was made by Janet Fitzgerald and seconded by Shon Wellborn.

**MOTION PASSED unanimously.**

The current ED candidate will be on site on March 31, 2009, starting at 8AM. All board members are invited to that 8:00AM interview; providers may also drop in before they start seeing patients. There was some discussion of this candidate and her qualifications.

**Advance Agenda Items:**

For the April 20<sup>th</sup> Special Board Meeting at 5:00 (a Monday night)

1. Revised and corrected February Financials
2. Determination of the legality of the eligibility process for the Sliding Scale clients below 100% of poverty.
3. Add Jim Murphy as a signer, and determine check limits

**For the April 28<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting**

Janet Fitzgerald requests information on the 20 most common lab tests sent through Quest, the cost to the health center, and the degree of markup.

**Future Meetings:**

March 31, starting at 8AM: interview with ED candidate.

April 20<sup>th</sup>, 5:00 PM Special Board Meeting

April 28<sup>th</sup>, 5:00PM Finance Committee Meeting

April 28<sup>th</sup> 5:00PM Board Meeting

All the above meetings will be at the RRHC medical building.

The meeting adjourned by mutual consent at 7:53 after some interesting discussion with Harry Jasper about electronic medical records, lobbying efforts, and so on.

Respectfully submitted, Kathy Epling, RRHC Board Secretary