

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 Meeting

January 26, 2010

6PM at the clinic in Redway

Board Members Present: Thad Horner, Rick Silva, Janet Fitzgerald, Sydney King, Pamela Moore, Kathy Epling

Board Members Absent: Shelby and Carol Lee, (Mexico);Shon Wellborn(family matters).

Staff Present: Anne Staunton; Jeanie Eldridge; Mark Mowrey; Megan McCormack; Wendi Joiner

Thad brought the meeting to order at slightly after 6PM. Rick Silva agreed to be timekeeper for the evening.

The group reviewed the agenda. Anne suggested that the reports from Wendi Joiner, Mark Mowrey, and Megan McCormack be presented after the approval of the consent agenda, so that these people might, if they so desired, leave before the meeting ended.

With this change, Sydney King made a
MOTION: That the agenda be approved
Which was seconded by Pamela Moore and which
PASSED unanimously

The consent agenda was reviewed; there were no questions or comments about items on this consent agenda.

MOTION: That the consent agenda be approved as submitted.
The motion was made by Pamela Moore and seconded by Sydney King
MOTION PASSED unanimously

The consent agenda included the board minutes and finance committee minutes from December 2009, and the January 2010 behavioral health, dental, medical, finance and operations, health information management systems, quality improvement report, and the December 2009.

Medical Director Wendi Joiner gave an update on progress towards getting prenatal care in Southern Humboldt. She, Anne Staunton, and Harry Jasper (CEO of the Hospital District) recently met with RRHC founder and long time midwife and women's health worker Lorraine Carolan to talk about the roots of RRHC and about opportunities for providing care to our local women and babies. Carolyn Eldridge, a

certified nurse midwife working in the Open Door community clinic network, has expressed interest in providing care in Southern Humboldt.

There was lively and interested discussion; the board is very excited about the possibility of having prenatal care offered at RRHC.

Having prenatal care available will help our clinic meeting many goals; it fits our mission, and it should mean better community care in general.

The board thanked Wendi for her information and excellent work on behalf of RRHC.

Mark Mowrey gave a presentation on the status of our outsourced lab service. The board has been anxious to hear an update on whether it might be possible to get lower fees for commonly done lab tests, in order that the community might better afford them. RRHC currently uses Quest, which it has for a long time. Mark said the situation with Quest has been improving and lab services in general have been improving in terms of flow, turn around, and so on.

And yet, he believes he spends at least an hour a week dealing with problems with Quest.

Anne noted that the board is particularly concerned with the apparently high cost of using Quest. Mark passed out sheets showing how much Quest charges us and how much Quest bills insurance or a client. The difference between these two figures was extreme, at least to the board's eyes, where a test costing 1.49 might be billed at 90 dollars or more.

RRHC is investigating the possibility of whether another lab provider might be more efficient and more cost efficient. LabCore is the other lab provider; information at this time is not conclusive.

There was considerable discussion of this topic. One item of discussion was whether the sliding fee charge levied for lab tests should be a flat fee for all tests drawn the same day, or whether the 20 dollars should be levied per test.

Mark was thanked for his report and for his good work for RRHC.

Megan McCormack and Anne Staunton gave a presentation on the ELF project; the electronic medical records and practice management shift towards which the clinic has been working these past months. Megan is the new HIMS director (health information management systems). The contract with Next Gen has been signed. Sparkling apple cider was happily imbibed all around in celebration by board and staff.

Megan passed around a thorough and quite nifty mapping of current resources showing which computers or other electronic tools needed updating, or were excellent as is, and what changes were to be made. Many computers are being replaced, two servers will be added; there are some new laptops coming.

Lively discussion (and drinking of cider) followed.

Anne updated the board on the implementation plan; given the need for training and for going at a careful pace and software testing, the leadership team expects that the practice management system will roll out by June/July, with the Electronic Medical Records following in October.

This time frame will make us eligible for some special funds to help the process.

There was discussion of the advantages looked forward to in all this change, such as better coding.

There was discussion of ongoing strategic planning; Anne will resend the dates of future meetings to the board.

At the March board meeting there will be an update on the new furniture and rearrangement of office spaces.

Vera Brown was the recipient of the first Star Award (and well deserving of it); future awards will honor other deserving staff members; Anne explained the process to the board.

A new dental hygienist is beginning work in the dental department. He will be working two days a week and is coming up from the Santa Rosa area.

The next finance committee and Board meeting will be held on February 23, 2010 at the Redway health center. Finance committee will start at 5PM; the Board meeting will start at 6PM.

MOTION: That the board adjourn into executive session.

The motion was made by Kathy Epling, seconded by Pamela Moore, and

MOTION PASSED unanimously.

The board went into executive session at 7:37PM; returned to open session at 8:25 PM and adjourned by general consent immediately thereafter.

Respectfully submitted by Kathy Epling, Board secretary, who was endlessly grateful for the coffee provided at this meeting.