

*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**

**August 25, 2009**

**6PM at the clinic in Redway**

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

**Board Member absent:** Sydney King (she had injured her ankle; we hope she's healing well)

**Staff Present:** Anne Staunton, RRHC Executive Director; Jeanie Eldridge, RRHC CFO

President Thad Horner brought the meeting to order at 6PM.

Rick Silva agreed to be timekeeper.

**MOTION: That the agenda be approved as submitted.**

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

**MOTION PASSED unanimously**

A report from the Dental Division was circulated.

During the time given for board discussion and/or questions about reports, Thad Horner wished to know more about the relationship between **Southern Humboldt Working Together and Redwoods Rural Health Center**. Anne's report had noted that RRHC had just finished a grant report to HAF (Humboldt Area Foundation) for a grant associated with fulfillment of the CBI grant.

Anne replied that the two entities are in the process of separating and clarifying things; there are still some outstanding invoices associated with the CBI grant. Finalization of these invoices should happen in the next few weeks.

Kathy Epling, who is also on the SHWT board (and is board secretary there) added that the process is friendly and graceful. SHWT has identified a new meeting place (with no rent) in the former Masonic Temple Building (now the Sanderson building) and intends to continue to act as a gathering point and information point for nonprofits and individuals throughout the community.

There was a discussion of the new flu; Humboldt County has apparently had it's first death, a 58 year old woman with pre existing health conditions.

Kathy Epling wished to commend Wendi Joiner for her leadership in facilitating a longer scheduling process (so that, say, parents with children needing three appointments over a three week period can schedule those). There was some discussion.

Rick Silva kindly said some appreciative things about the board secretary's minutes; he appreciated being able to read them when he was not at the meeting; it was, he said, like being there.

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

The motion was made by Carol Lee and seconded by Shon Wellborn

**MOTION PASSED unanimously.**

The consent agenda contained: Minutes of the July 09 board meeting; minutes of the July 2009 finance committee meeting, departmental reports from behavioral health, dental, medical, finance and operations, and the July Financial report.

Anne Staunton passed out a **California State Budget update** to the board. Further information, since this information is shifting constantly, can be had at the California Primary Care Association's website.

There was considerable discussion of the potential effects of loss of funding for needed programs, as well as of the latest lawsuit brought against the State of California.

Anne spoke of **the latest progress in the ELF project** (electronic records, etc). With other key staff she visited Open Door, both one of the dental clinics and the medical clinic, to see how the OCHIN network (Oregon Community Health Improvement Network) is working for them.

Jeanie Eldridge, Megan McCormack, Wendi Joiner and Mark Mowrey went with Anne on this field trip.  
Open Door staff was very helpful.

Anne noted that she and/or key staff, who last month talked with Cathy Larsen at Southern Trinity about the system they are using there, will be talking with and visiting other health centers who are using others of the available systems, in the process of determining what will work best for RRHC.

Anne anticipates the decision process taking around 5 to 6 months.

At the moment within RRHC attention is focused on how to organize the flow, on IT infrastructure (what are the hardware requirements; what do we have; what do we need to do) and on ITA workforce skills assessment, making sure everyone has the skills needed to navigate an electronic system.

Anne informed the board of progress in the **Sliding Fee Changes and Implementation** (the new fees go into effect September 1). The changes have been posted; clients have been spoken with. Anne said the reactions were positive; that people seemed to understand the need for fee increases.

New forms have been created for the new fee schedules.

**Physical therapy** clients are currently able to be seen by John Schmidt at his private practice and at the hospital, though Anne reported that all the logistics of referrals to the hospital are in the process of being worked out. John Schmidt, who no longer will be working at RRHC, will nonetheless be doing some provider education on physical therapy in the future.

Letters are going out to **acupuncture** clients about a change in policy whereby they must first be seen by a doctor or other medical provider before being seen by the acupuncturist.

Some of the board were concerned about this.

Janet Fitzgerald felt that acupuncturists are co-equal to standard medical providers, and that many clients may refuse to see a medical doctor; their acupuncturist is their doctor.

Anne Staunton said that integrative health practice would require that the acupuncturist and more standard medical providers work together.

Kathy Epling believed the process should go both ways.

Anne noted that acupuncture is not part of the basic FQHC primary health care requirements; Kathy and Janet noted that the health center had been founded in a spirit of openness to alternative health practices.

Kathy wondered what the policy at neighboring FQHC's who provide acupuncture is.

The question of financial issues was also considered.

The discussion was heated and lengthy, and is likely to continue at the coming potluck and budget discussion on August 31.

The new acupuncturist, Pearl Kinsella, is doing well. She will be at the health center on Thursdays.

Anne filled the board in on recent staffing changes. One staff person has left to take a position as a waitress.

Some policies and procedures are up for review; these will be sent out via email for the board to review; to be approved and signed at the September meeting.

Thad Horner was extremely impressed with the list of Policies and Procedures and their status in terms of needing review/change/etc.

The rest of the board agreed with Thad.

Rick Silva suggested that another column on the list be added to note agreement with (or change needed to agree with) the Employee Handbook.

There was discussion of the **fundraising plan/process**. Members of the board are definitely willing to be involved, but await further clarification.

Thad Horner wanted to know what the financial goals and expectations for this are.

Anne believes she as executive director should be the lead fundraiser, but that she needs support and buy in from the board and from other staff.

She'd like to form a work group for fundraising.

More discussion of this will happen in September.

**The next board meeting will be September 22, 2009, starting at 6PM; the finance committee meeting will be immediately before the board meeting, at 5PM.** These meetings will be at the meeting room at the clinic in Redway.

Thad Horner called for a brief executive session.

**MOTION: That the Board adjourn into executive session.**

Motion was made by Kathy Epling, and seconded by Janet Fitzgerald

**MOTION PASSED unanimously.**

The board went into closed session at 7:39PM and returned to open session at 7:42, adjourning immediately by mutual consent.

Respectfully submitted, Kathy Epling, RRHC board secretary.