

Minutes
Communities Connect Membership Meeting
Friday, March 13, 2009
10:00am – 11:00 a.m.

Participants: Sallie Neillie, King Co. Project Access; Sue Sharpe, Whatcom Alliance for Healthcare Access (WAHA); Diane Morton, Skagit Valley Hospital; Kristen West, CHOICE Regional Health Network; Lisa Podell, King Co. Public Health Children's Health Initiative; Holly Greenwood, CHOICE Regional Health Network; Jesus Hernandez, Community Choice Healthcare Network; Patty Hayes, WithinReach; Jackie Saul, WAHA; Ralph DeCristoforo, Community-Minded Enterprises, Health for All

Meeting Objectives

- Update on Community Collaborative Grant re-authorization
- Identify next steps for legislative strategy
- Update on other legislative issues

Minutes

<i>Topic</i>
Introductions and Agenda Review
2009 Legislative Strategy Development <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community Health Collaborative Grant Program<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ SB 5360 Update○ Prep for House Health Care
<p>SB 5360 passed unanimously in the Senate this week. Senators Brandland and Keiser praised the work of community collaboratives. The bill is now on its way to the House. Communities Connect is proposing changes to the language to clarify the intent of the bill. Holly has spoken with Dave Knutson about these changes, which have been forwarded to Senator Keiser. Communities Connect will present a panel, whose members will include Lisa Podell and Kirsten Wysen from King County and representatives from Whatcom County, to the House Healthcare Committee. The date is not yet finalized but Dave Knutson has informed Holly it will most likely be March 24 at 8:00 am. Kristen suggested that Communities Connect ask Senator Keiser to introduce the bill at the hearing. Holly will follow up with Sen. Keiser on this and confirm the hearing date and time.</p>
<p>Holly has learned that the Senate budget is to be released March 23 and the House budget is to be released March 24. While there is no funding tied to SB 5360, Dave Knutson has indicated this bill is a good strategy to ensure the continuation of the Community Collaborative Grant program.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• General Assistance for the Unemployed (GAU) <p>While both the Senate and House members support the continuation of GAU, Dave Knutson has informed Holly that legislators are aware that the budget deficit "is what it is" and cuts will be made.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Basic Health Letter <p>WAHA took the lead on drafting a proposal suggesting ways to cut costs to Basic Health to make it more sustainable. Communities Connect supports this proposal and sent it to all Legislative leadership and members of the Healthcare and Fiscal committees this week. This is a budget item and does not require legislation. Sue has learned from the Healthcare Authority (HCA) that these proposed changes do not produce a great cost savings. Representative Cody has reported to Sue that the budget deficit is expected to be more significant than originally projected in the Governor's budget; therefore the legislature hopes they can produce a budget for Basic Health that matches the Governor's budget and doesn't include more cuts. HCA's goal is to not have to discontinue coverage for anyone currently receiving Basic Health. Holly reported that agencies are seeing a slow down in approved Basic Health applications, although agencies should continue to send in applications to "get in the queue."</p>

- Outreach \$'s

Patty reported that there have been discussions within HCCY regarding outreach dollars but no updates were provided during a recent conference call. The group discussed federal funding from SCHIP and the recent stimulus plan however there is no consensus on the plans for these funds. The group agrees that SCHIP funds should be used for outreach. Ralph plans to contact Tyron (on behalf of Community-Minded Enterprises) with this recommendation and will copy Communities Connect members on this email.

- HB 1270

This bill will allow for e-signatures and e-submission of DSHS applications and is up for hearing in Senate Health and Long Term Care Committee March 25 at 8:00 am. It has already passed in the House (with no negative votes). Patty will send out information about this bill to members. She asked members to contact their legislators to request support for the bill.

Other Issues

- Patient Empowerment Training Outreach Workers

This training was mentioned at the last membership meeting. Kristen has been in contact with the organization that offers the training, and they are willing to offer it to Communities Connect at no cost. The training is a 2-hour session for 20 people; several sessions could be offered in one day at members' agencies throughout the Seattle area. Other members outside Seattle could also attend. The trainer will be going on maternity leave soon, so this may not occur until September but there is a possibility of doing it in late April.

- Medicaid Advisory Board

This group was mentioned at the last membership meeting; they are looking for consumer participation. Doug Burt with CHOICE may know of someone who is interested; Holly will follow up with him. Jackie will send out the information about the group again.

- Membership Update/Dues

Jackie reported that half of Communities Connect member dues for 2009 have been paid.

- Executive Committee Retreat

The Executive Committee is scheduling a retreat for long term planning. The goal is to create a one-year plan for funding and activities for the coming year. The strategic plan will be presented to members.

- Member Information for the Website

It was suggested at the last meeting that information about member organizations be posted on the Communities Connect website. Jackie requested that members submit a small blurb about their organizations which she will compile and post on the website.

Review of Next Steps:

- **Next General Membership Meeting:-- April 10, 2009**