

Minutes
Communities Connect Membership Meeting
Friday, May 8, 2009
10:00am – 11:00 a.m.

Participants: Holly Greenwood & Libby Weisdepp, CHOICE Regional Health Network; Kerri Lenderman & Jackie Saul, Whatcom Alliance for Healthcare Access; Lisa Podell, King Co. Health Department Children's Health Initiative; Jesus Hernandez, Community Choice Healthcare Network; John Driscoll, Spokane Project Access

Meeting Objectives

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

Minutes

Introductions and Agenda Review

During introductions members shared information about how the current economic crisis is impacting their agencies. Holly introduced John Driscoll, State Representative and Executive Director of Spokane Project Access and thanked him for his support on SB 5360.

2009 Legislative Strategy Development

Community Health Collaborative Grant Program

SB 5360 was signed by Governor Gregoire last week. At the bill signing, Representative Linville informed the Governor of her strong support for the Community Collaborative grant program. While the Community Collaborative bill has been signed, the budget bill has not. Dennis Martin with the Health Care Authority (HCA) fully expects the funding to stay in the budget as the funds cannot be reallocated if the Governor chooses to line item veto the funding. Holly has requested that HCA allow Communities Connect be a part of the discussion regarding distribution of the Community Collaborative grant funds.

Kristen spoke recently with Jonathan Seib with the Governor's office. He has that requested Communities Connect provide data from members regarding the impact of state budget cuts at the community level.

John noted that it is important to pay close attention to the healthcare reform work being done at Federal level. He expects that healthcare reform proposals will begin to roll out in June and July; Washington should be in position to receive any funding that may be available.

Holly spoke about CAQUI, Federal legislation very similar to Washington's SB 5360. She is working to get additional co-sponsors, as the only current sponsors are Senator Murray and Representatives Smith (WA) and Green (TX). Holly requested that members contact their Representatives and Senator Cantwell to request their support of this legislation. Holly will send out a position paper and more information about CAQUI.

Other Legislative Issues

- GAU: GAU was maintained in the state budget, with the addition of mental health benefits.
- Basic Health: Holly has sent out information regarding an upcoming Basic Health stakeholder forum; she will attend on behalf of Communities Connect. This forum is an opportunity for us to participate in the conversation regarding disenrolling individuals from Basic Health. Anyone not able to attend can forward their comments to Holly.
- Outreach \$'s: While there are outreach dollars in the state and Federal budgets, there has not been a decision made on how to expend these dollars. A meeting is planned for May 20 where we hope to learn more. The group expressed frustration in not knowing how or when these funds will be dispersed and discussed problems with doing per application payments without also providing infrastructure and education funding.

Other Issues

Executive Committee Retreat

The Executive Committee has met to develop a long-term plan for Communities Connect. The committee is updating the Mission and Vision statement, Policies and Procedures (including membership levels) and will develop a 2-year budget and strategic plan. This information will be provided at the June membership meeting. Jesus noted

now that Community Collaboratives are recognized in legislation and that we all recognize the value of what we do, where Communities Connect goes from here is something we all need to think about. One suggestion is working to expand membership (especially to counties not currently represented); increasing our membership and engaging current members will enhance our work. He asked members to send him or Holly any other ideas or suggestions.

Roster Updates

Jackie will send out the current roster and members are asked to send her any contact updates.

Review of Next Steps:

- **Next General Membership Meeting:– June 12, 2009**
- **Adjourn**