

MINUTES

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

FACILITIES ADVISORY BOARD

August 16, 2004—3:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Karla Perez, Chairman, Spring Valley Hospital
Donald Kwalick, M.D., Chief Health Officer, CCHD
Renato Baciarelli, St. Rose Dominican Hospitals
Suzanne Cram, Sunrise Hospital

Tad Morley, MountainView Hospital
Craig Preston, North Vista Hospital
D. Blain Claypool, UMC
Jennifer Schomburg, Summerlin Hospital

MEMBERS ABSENT

Kim Crandell, Boulder City Hospital
Mary Jo Solon, Southern Hills Hospital
Ingrid Whipple, Montevista
John Ruffner, Valley Hospital

David Rosin, M.D., SNAMHS
Jeff Davidson, M.D., Valley Hospital
Sam Kaufman, Desert Springs Hospital

CCHD STAFF PRESENT

Rory Chetelat, EMS Manager
Rae Pettie, Program/Project Coordinator
Jane Shunney, R.N., Asst. to the Chief Health Officer
Moana Hanawahine-Yamamoto, Administrative Assistant
Kay Godby, Biopreparedness Planner

Mary Ellen Britt, R.N., QI Coordinator
Trish Beckwith, Field Representative
Eddie Tajima, Recording Secretary
Jim Osti, Grant Writer

I. CONSENT AGENDA

The Facilities Advisory Board convened in the Clemens Room of the Ravenholt Public Health Center on Monday, August 16, 2004. Chairman Karla Perez called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. and the Affidavit of Posting was noted in accordance with the Nevada Open Meeting Law. Ms. Perez noted that a quorum was present.

Minutes Facilities Advisory Board Meeting August 4, 2004

Chairman Perez asked for approval of the minutes of the August 4, 2004 meeting. A motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the minutes as written.

II. REPORT/DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION

A. Influenza Pandemic Recommendation

Kay Godby, the Biopreparedness Planner for Clark County Health District, asked the Board for their assistance in increasing vaccination compliance rates among healthcare workers in Clark County. Last year in Clark County, the average percentage of acute care facility employees immunized was only 28%, whereas the national average was 36%. Ms. Godby stressed the importance of vaccinations among healthcare workers in order to prevent transmitting the virus to other staff or patients. For 2003-2004, the CDC reported that of the 300,000 people diagnosed with influenza or pneumonia, 36,000 people died from the illness. In Clark County, there were 212 confirmed influenza cases and 3 reported deaths. The CDC has projected that there will be a worldwide influenza pandemic in the next couple of years.

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommended annual vaccination for the following target groups: persons greater than 65 years of age; persons aged 50-64 because of the elevated prevalence of certain chronic and medical conditions; children aged 2-23 months; pregnant women; and persons of any age with certain chronic and medical conditions. Ms. Godby added there should be added incentive to vaccinate due to the 94% average increase in payment rate by Medicare/Medicaid for vaccine administration. Ms. Godby also asked that hospital CEOs and Administrators lead by example by getting vaccinated.

Chairwoman Perez noted that the low compliance rate among healthcare workers was due to low supplies of the vaccine. The vaccinations had to be prioritized so individuals working in direct patient contact in the most critical areas were vaccinated first. Ms. Perez added that in the 20 years she's been a resident of Clark County, there has never been a year that there has been enough vaccine. Ms. Godby indicated that there would not be a shortage this year and thanked the Board for their cooperation.

B. County Request to Continue Funding to WestCare

Dan Musgrove, Director of Intergovernmental Relations for Clark County, asked the Board for their assistance in funding WestCare's \$2.7 million budget until the 2005 Legislative session. The \$2.7 million annual budget translates to approximately \$230,000 a month to keep the Community Triage Center operational. With the local governments (City of Las Vegas, Henderson, North Las Vegas, Boulder City and Clark County) contributing \$1,021,026 and the State's beta grant of \$427,672, a monthly shortfall of \$108,000 would still exist. Mr. Musgrove felt that it was important that the hospitals provide WestCare with a firm commitment that they would fund the monthly balance.

Ms. Perez indicated that members of the Board had raised several questions regarding the budget over the past week. One concern was that the Board has never seen a copy of WestCare's budget. Mr. Musgrove replied that WestCare was prepared to meet with the hospitals' CFOs and go through the budget, line by line. Another concern involved Mr. Musgrove's cost of \$488 per mental health patient when Dr. Rosin had stated WestCare's cost per patient was \$300. Mr. Musgrove stated that Dr. Rosin's figure was referring specifically to the Martin Luther King facility. When that facility was opened, many things such as transportation and food were volunteered or donated and thus costs per patient were superficially low. Another concern related to the length of the hospitals' commitment in the Memorandum of Understanding. Mr. Musgrove felt that a commitment to the end of March was needed. He explained that there was an out clause so if the hospitals felt at any time that something had fallen through, WestCare could be notified within 30 days that funding would cease.

Ms. Perez noted that HCA's attorneys had made some corrections to the MOU. Copies were passed out to the Board members so they could review them with their legal counsel. Ms. Perez asked that comments be forwarded to her by next Monday due to the urgency of the matter.

C. Blue Ribbon Task Force Update

Susie Cram reported the final findings and recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Task Force. The Task Force was charged with developing a mandatory reporting system in order to track the number of Legal 2000s in the emergency departments. It was discovered that if a uniform system was utilized, better information could be extracted to better problem-solve. Jim Osti commented that initial concerns regarding HIPAA violations were alleviated by creating a new spreadsheet that would only send aggregate information.

D. Continuation of the County Mental Health Crisis

Chairwoman Perez summarized the August 4th, 2004 Facilities Advisory Board meeting. She clarified that the recommendations made at the conclusion of the White Paper were not meant in

a threatening manner as was perceived by some. They were delivered with the intent to convey the seriousness of the issue and the fact that the Board felt very strongly that something needed to happen fairly quickly. It was never the intent of the hospitals to send mental health patients out of the emergency rooms to have them sit in the back of an ambulance only to wait in the driveway of the mental health facility.

Ms. Perez reported that Mike Willden, Director of Human Resources for the State of Nevada, stated that funding mental health was the state's responsibility and that the state was committed to funding mental health. It is his intent to budget the \$26 million per year needed to operate all 190 beds at the new Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services facility. Mr. Willden also indicated his desire to establish medical clearance screening at the 6161 West Charleston facility and believed very strongly that the state mental health facility should be involved in the process.

III. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS/DISCUSSION ONLY

Rory Chetelat reported that Paragraph V of the Internal Disaster policy had been struck completely after Susie Cram had raised concerns regarding certain aspects. Mr. Chetelat stated that defining a process for declaring an internal disaster would have to be revisited in the future. Ms. Cram offered Mr. Chetelat her assistance in drafting a procedure. Mr. Chetelat thanked Ms. Cram for her effort.

IV. PUBLIC APPEARANCE/CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

No response.

V. ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business, Chairwoman Karla Perez called for a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously to adjourn at 4:45 p.m.