

MINUTES

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

FACILITIES ADVISORY BOARD

September 13, 2004—3:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Karla Perez, Chairman, Spring Valley Hospital
Donald Kwalick, M.D., Chief Health Officer, CCHD
D. Blain Claypool, UMC
Suzanne Cram, Sunrise Hospital
Jonna Triggs, Southern NV Adult Mental Health Services

Tad Morley, MountainView Hospital
Sam Kaufman, Desert Springs Hospital
Ingrid Whipple, Montevista
Pam Turner, Valley Hospital

MEMBERS ABSENT

Kim Crandell, Boulder City Hospital
Mary Jo Solon, Southern Hills Hospital
Renato Baciarelli, St. Rose Dominican Hospital
Rod Davis, St. Rose Dominican Hospital

Jennifer Schomburg, Summerlin Hospital
Jeff Davidson, M.D., Valley Hospital
Craig Preston, North Vista 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

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, September 13, 2004. Chairman Karla Perez called the meeting to order at 3:14 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 16, 2004

Chairman Perez asked for approval of the minutes of the August 16, 2004 meeting. A motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the minutes as written.

II. REPORT/DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION

A. Community Triage Center Memorandum of Understanding-Dan Musgrove

Dan Musgrove reported that, as requested at the previous FAB meeting, WestCare and fiscal officers of the area hospitals had met to discuss the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). No changes were made to the County's payment formula and an agreement was reached to extend the MOU for nine months. Mr. Musgrove added that a concern raised by Sunrise Hospital's attorney, Lynn Fullstone, regarding mental health screening reimbursement was a separate issue from the MOU. Blain Claypool agreed that one issue regarded mental health while the other involved the State. Karla Perez asked if removing the paragraph in question and creating a separate agreement between the hospitals and the county identifying the terms of reimbursement would be agreeable. Mr. Musgrove replied that although he wasn't in a position to say how this would occur, it was a step in the right direction. Tad Morley noted that he didn't

want to see the MOU stalled but was concerned that the reimbursement issue would fall through the cracks unless discussion was kept alive. Mr. Musgrove added that the County was more than willing to continue discussions in order to provide some assurance to the hospitals that the process was progressing. Susie Cram asked if the contributions would end on April 1st. Mr. Musgrove replied that the agreement with WestCare was a one year agreement but that he hoped that neither the hospitals nor the local governments would have to pay beyond April 1st. Mr. Musgrove stated that Mike Willden from the Governor's office believed that available funds from the 2005 budget could be taken to the Interim Finance Committee for approval to fund the last 3 months of WestCare's budget. Susie Cram made a motion to delete item 13, regarding reimbursement, and to approve the MOU. Mr. Claypool seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

B. Continuation of the County Mental Health Crisis-Karla Perez

Dr. Jonna Triggs provided a brief history of the State's actions during the mental health crisis. After the Interim Finance Committee gave permission to staff on August 12th, patients were admitted to the annex the following day. By August 18th, the facility was filled to capacity with 28 patients and has remained at capacity since. Dr. Triggs added that a request was made in the budget to conduct medical clearances at the Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services (SNAHMS) facility for spring of 2006. Ms. Perez asked what the State's interim plan was to deal with the overflow of mental health patients. Dr. Triggs replied that Dr. Brandenburg was looking at the possibility of transporting patients to facilities in northern Nevada. Ms. Cram asked if there was a holding area on the SNAHMS facility where hospitals could divert some of the less serious psychiatric patients. Ms. Perez commented that she had a problem with the fact that there was no plan and to simply state that there was a plan for 2006 wasn't acceptable to the community. Mr. Morley added that the idea of moving patients north was visited 3 months earlier and that there didn't seem to be the necessary level of intensity from the State to find a solution. Dr. Triggs promised to take the concerns of the FAB to her superiors in Carson City. Mr. Morley continued his earlier comment that the hospitals have exhausted every single possibility to find a solution but the State has been idle. Ingrid Whipple asked if any of the new hospitals had empty wings that could be utilized for psychiatric services. Ms. Perez replied that Spring Valley Hospital had an empty wing but wasn't licensed to provide psychiatric services and thus wouldn't be able to open up the wing. Ms. Cram asked if the space could be leased to someone else to provide the services. Mr. Claypool agreed that it would be an interim step to relieve some pressure off of the hospitals. Jim Osti reminded the committee that under the declaration of emergency, a 60 bed facility which was now empty, had been utilized. Under the current declaration of emergency, it was available for use as a mental health facility. Dr. Triggs stated that she would take all of the suggestions to Dr. Brandenburg and Director Willden. Ms. Perez asked that Dr. Triggs report back to the committee with an update at their next meeting.

C. Approval of the Policy to Eliminate E.D. Closure

Ms. Perez noted that earlier this spring a trial was put in place to eliminate ED divert. The MAB approved the termination of divert at their last meeting and asked the FAB to adopt the policy as well. Mr. Morley pointed out that the since trial was conducted in the summer it was premature to predict its effectiveness during the peak season. Ms. Perez added that elimination of divert was positive thus far but agreed with Mr. Morley that it still had to be trialed during peak times. Mr. Morley made a motion to extend the trial for another six months. Mr. Claypool seconded that motion and the motion carried unanimously.

D. EMS Task Force addressing Patient Access to Emergency Care-Rory Chetelat

Ms. Perez noted that there was some concern that the rotation of mental health patients was becoming faulty because of other mechanisms by which a mental health patient could present to the ER. Mr. Chetelat recommended that the number 5 be removed as a trigger for the mental health rotation and that mental health patients would be transported to the nearest hospital, within a region, with the lowest number stated on the EMS system for legal holds. Ms. Cram moved to accept the motion. Mr. Claypool seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

III. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS/DISCUSSION ONLY

None.

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 4:26 p.m.