

San Joaquin County Clinics (SJCC)
Minutes of July 30, 2013
Board Meeting

San Joaquin General Hospital
Caesar Chavez Clinic Conference Room
French Camp, CA

Board Members Present

Alvin Maldonado
Ogechi Achunine
Beth Shelton
Lei McMiller
Javier Serrano
Rod Place

Health Care Services Agency and SJGH Staff Present

Margaret Szczepaniak
Samantha Phillips-Bland
Ron Kreutner
Betty Jo Riendel
Cynthia King
Leilani Chua
Ramona Thomas, Interpreter

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m. by Chair, Alvin Maldonado.

Public Comment

Alvin Maldonado noted SJGH's designation as a Level III Trauma Center, and distributed an article from "The Record" on this event. All in attendance considered this a positive step for health care in the community. There were also questions from board members about the difference between the levels of trauma care, which were explained by Ms. Phillips-Bland.

Approval of Minutes of June 25, 2013 Meeting

Rod Place made a motion that the minutes of the June 25, 2013 meeting be approved as submitted. The motion was seconded by Javier Serrano and the Board approved the minutes.

Board Action Item

Approval of Draft Pharmacy Service Agreement

Samantha Phillips-Bland explained the Agreement which allows access to a federal discount drug program (340b) for medicines used in the clinics. The Agreement does not provide direct patient access to prescription medications at the clinics. The Agreement provides that the clinics will have a licensed Pharmacist to manage the drugs (stock levels, monitoring of expiration dates, new medications, reporting, etc.).

Lei McMiller made a motion that the Draft Pharmacy Service Agreement be approved. Javier Serrano seconded the motion and the Board unanimously agreed to approve the Agreement. The final signed agreement will be distributed to the SJCC following execution.

Discussion Items

Strategic Planning & Board Self-Evaluation

Margaret Szczepaniak distributed copies of an informational bulletin published by the National Association of Community Health Centers which gives examples of how to develop a self-evaluation. Margaret asked if there were one or two Board members who would like to work with her in developing the self-evaluation. Ogechi Achunine volunteered to work with her in the development of a Board Self-Evaluation. Samantha Phillips-Bland had tools for Ms. Szczepaniak and Ms. Achunine to use in developing the self-evaluation.

Samantha Phillips-Bland is developing a mission statement for the Board. She currently has 20 value statements and will present some of those statements to the Board at a future meeting.

Medi-Cal and Covered California Transition

The Board members were shown a video produced by the Kaiser Family Foundation entitled, "Get Ready for Obama Care". There are four categories of patient coverage:

-Those covered by their employer's insurance (approximately 1/2 of the population)

There will not much change for individuals currently covered by their employers. Employers with more than 50 employees will be required to provide health insurance coverage.

-Those covered by government insurance, i.e., Medicare, Medicaid (approximately 1/3);

There will not be much change to the Medicare program. Medicaid will be expanded to cover low income patients. However, it will be up to each individual state to decide to expand Medicaid. California will participate in the Medicaid expansion which is referred to as Medi-Cal. This transition will begin on January 1, 2014.

-Those who are self-insured (approximately 1/10)

Private insurance companies will compete with each other for people's business in what is referred to as a Health Insurance Marketplace. California has created a Health Insurance Marketplace called Covered California. Based on income levels, the federal government will provide people with a tax credit and patients only have to pay premium amounts which reflect the difference between tax credit received and the plan they choose .

-Those with no coverage (approximately 1/10).

If a person remains uninsured, they will be assessed with a fine when filing tax returns. For people who truly cannot afford health insurance, the penalty will be waived.

Over 2/3rds of Medical Assistance Program (MAP—the county financed coverage) patients have been converted to Low Income Health program (LIHP). LIHP will end in December 2013. LIHP patients will be automatically transferred to Medi-Cal effective January 1, 2014. The State of California approved an increase from 80% federal poverty level to 133% for the San Joaquin County's LIHP, effective August 1 to shift more MAP patients into LIHP for ease of transfer to Medi-Cal.

There was a Covered California Town Hall meeting held in Stockton on July 26. The enrollment period for Covered California begins on October 1, 2013 and ends on March 31, 2014. If a person does not enroll by March 31, they will not be able to enroll until October 2014. The open enrollment period will then be open for three months. However, if a major life event occurs, i.e., laid off from job, divorce, etc., a person can ask for an exception to enroll out of the enrollment period.

TV commercials will start soon to inform the public about Covered California. There will be Certified Enrollment Assistors available to assist the public. The Assistors will take a 2-3 day training course, as well as submit to background and fingerprint checks.

The Covered California website, www.coveredca.com, has several Power Point presentations explaining different aspects of the program. Staff went to the Covered California website to demonstrate for the SJCC members how to use the calculator to determine premium costs and available tax credits,

Operational and Staff Reports

a. Financial Report

Ron Kreutner presented the May 2013 financial report (a revised handout was distributed). There was a slightly less than average number of visits in the month of May. Benefits average 55% of salaries. Physician salaries are down due to the loss of provider staff that month. There was very little change in the payer mix.

b. Clinic Update Report

Volume Report

Samantha Phillips-Bland reported that the Number of patient visits has been consistently increasing (handout). There are 8.6 FTE vacancies. 4.5 of those FTEs are in the Phone Center. However hiring is currently taking place to fill the Phone Center vacancies. Consequently call center statistics on call waiting time and call abandonment were up. As part of an outreach campaign to educate patients on the changes coming under health care reform, doctors and nurses will be handing out cards to patients so that they can call for information on LIHP, Medi-Cal. and Covered California.

c. Update on FQHC Process

Margaret Szczepaniak advised the Board of HRSA's rejection of the application. Margaret distributed technical comments received from HRSA, and our response to HRSA. She and Mr. Cohen will be meeting with Congressional staff & HRSA to discuss concerns with the method of HRSA's rejection.

There may be a need for an Executive Committee meeting in the intervening time between board meetings should changes be necessary for our re-submittal or response.

Next Meeting

The next Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 27, 2013 at 5 p.m. at San Joaquin General Hospital, 500 W. Hospital Road, Health Center North Conference Room French Camp, CA.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alvin Maldonado, Chair