

San Joaquin County Clinics (SJCC)
Minutes of June 25, 2013
Board Meeting

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

Board Members Present

Alvin Maldonado
Ogechi Achunine
Ismael Cortez
Beth Shelton
Lei McMiller
Javier Serrano
Rod Place
Bernadette Hanna

Health Care Services Agency and SJGH Staff Present

Ken Cohen
Margaret Szczepaniak
Samantha Phillips-Bland
David Culberson
Ron Kreutner
Betty Jo Rindel
Cynthia King
Leilani Chua
Lilia Mora, Interpreter

Call to Order

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

Public Comment

None

Approval of Minutes of April 26, 2013 and May 28, 2013 Meetings

Beth Shelton made a motion that the minutes of the April 26, 2013 and May 28, 2013 meetings be approved as submitted. The motion was seconded by Lei McMiller and the Board approved the minutes.

Revised Agenda

Margaret Szczepaniak advised that a revised agenda was prepared to include a Board action to approve the Draft Financial Eligibility Screening Policy. The draft Policy was not available at the time the original agenda was mailed to Board members. The Board unanimously approved the revised agenda.

Discussion Items

Report on June 11, 2013 Executive Committee Meeting

- Nominating Process for Board Officers for 2013-14

The Executive Committee agreed that they were willing to remain as Officers of the Board for one more year. Board members were asked if any among them wished to be considered for an Officer position or if they were agreeable with voting to retain the current Officers. Beth Shelton made a motion to adopt the nomination of the current officers. Lei McMiller seconded the motion. The majority of the Board members voted to retain the officers for another year.

- Strategic Planning & Board Self-Evaluation

Margaret Szczepaniak explained to the Board that HRSA requires the Board to perform a self-evaluation of their progress to date. There were questions as to how the members would conduct self-evaluations. It was decided that the process of developing a self-evaluation tool will begin at the next Board meeting on July 30, 2013 and continue during future meetings.

Covered California

Covered California, the Affordable Care Act, will become effective on January 1, 2014. The Act mandates that all Californians have health insurance. MAP patients with income levels below 80% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) will automatically be covered by Medi-Cal on January 1, 2014. MAP patients with income over 80% and up to 100% of FPL will be eligible for Medi-Cal. However, they will have to apply for it.

Margaret Szczepaniak distributed information about insurance companies through Covered California that uninsured Californians who do not qualify for a subsidy can select for medical insurance.

For people who are insured through their employer, there will be no change. However, some employers may opt to not offer coverage for their employees. It is estimated that 35,000 people will qualify for expanded Medi-Cal coverage.

Margaret suggested that the Board members go to the Covered California website (www.coveredca.com) to familiarize themselves with the Act. Covered California will set up three call centers for the purpose of answering questions. Each county will also set up information lines.

Samantha Phillips-Bland suggested that the subject of the Affordable Care Act be placed each future Board agenda (allow approximately 15 minutes) in order to discuss different aspects of the Medi-Cal and Covered California transition.

Board Action Item

Approval of Draft Financial Eligibility Screening Policy

Board members were provided with the Draft Financial Eligibility Screening Policy, Client Eligibility Certification for the Sliding Fee Scale, the Sliding Fee Scale, and Patient Guide Payment for Services & Sliding Fee Scale.

Samantha Phillips-Bland explained the process for patients presenting to the clinic and applying for reduced visit costs. The reduced costs are only for visits and do not cover prescriptions or laboratory procedures. Patients self-certify and the information provided is taken at face value. If a patient does not have the money they are expected to pay according to the Sliding Fee Scale, the clinic will accept whatever money they have, if any, and bill them for the balance. No patient will be turned away.

Bernadette Hanna made a motion that the Draft Financial Eligibility Screening Policy be approved. Beth Shelton seconded the motion and the Board approved.

Operational and Staff Reports

a. Financial Report

Ron Kreutner presented the April 2013 financial report. There were a total of 6,996 visits in the month of April. There has been a decrease in the number of hours per visit. Total expenses were 6-1/2% lower than the yearly average. There was a \$653,000 operating loss before income allocations (AB109 and DSRIP), and the operating costs came out even with those allocations. The amount of benefits as a percentage of salary decreased. The year-to-date adjusted operating gain is \$598,300. Once the clinics are designated as FQHC, AB109 funds will stop and DSRIP funds will slowly go away. There will also be costs for clinic staff salaries, clinic space, etc.

b. Clinic Update Reports

Volume Report

Samantha Phillips-Bland reported that the clinics are on pace to service 10,000 more visits than last fiscal year. The amount of visits to the California Street Clinic continues to increase monthly.

Electronic Health Record

Samantha Phillips-Bland reported that the Board of Supervisors approved the contract for the selection and purchase of the EClinical Works software. Health Information Exchange, lead by the Health Plan of San Joaquin, will link the medical records of Behavioral Health Services, San Joaquin General Hospital, the clinics and Community Medical Centers. Electronic Health Records should be going live by December.

The maintenance of the servers will not be done by the hospital. The information will be kept in the clouds.

c. Update on FQHC Process

Margaret Szczepaniak reported that HRSA had 105 days to review the application. As of the date of the Board meeting, HRSA had the application for 175 days. Margaret has been contacting HRSA for status updates. Once HRSA has finished their review of the application, Health Care Services will have 30 days to respond to any questions and further information that is requested.

Margaret announced that Board member, Regina McMahan has resigned effective immediately.

Next Meeting

The next Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 30, 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 6:13 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alvin Maldonado, Chair