

PINELLAS ASSEMBLY HEALTH CARE SERVICES TASK FORCE

June 26, 2003

The Pinellas Assembly Health Care Services Task Force met at 1100 Cleveland Street, Suite 1500, Clearwater, Florida, at 3:07 P.M. on this date with the following members in attendance: Ronnie Duncan, Chairman; Alan Bomstein; Dr. William Hale; and Elizabeth Mayhangian.

Absent: Larry Archbell; Dr. Carrie Nero; Nancy Hamilton; and Jonathan Wade.

Also present: Evelyn Bethell, Staff, Department of Human Services; and Virginia Rowell, City of St. Petersburg, Co-Staff; and MaryAnn Penhale, Board Reporter.

AGENDA

- I. Welcome and Introductions - Evelyn Bethell
- II. Background –
 - Chairs
 - Agenda
 - Other issues to consider
- III. Community Health Centers of Pinellas - Tracy Payne
- IV. Open Agenda
- V. Committee Chair Meeting
August 14, 2003 - 5:30 P.M.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Ms. Bethell welcomed those in attendance.

BACKGROUND

The members decided by consensus that Ronnie Duncan will serve as Chairman.

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Ms. Bethell reviewed a chart titled, *Pinellas County Department of Social Services, Health Care Actual Expenditures FY 1997- FY 2002, Health Care Allocation FY 2003*, a copy of which has been filed and made a part of the record; and discussed the following:

- upper payment limit (UPL) funds;
- indigent health care at County level;
- contributions by counties to Medicaid fund; and
- current formula based on recipients' usage of hospitals and nursing homes.

OTHER ISSUES TO CONSIDER

The members opted in favor of bullet-type minutes in lieu of verbatim.

COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS OF PINELLAS (NOT PRESENTED)

Ms. Bethell indicated that Tracy Payne is unable to attend today's meeting and will be rescheduled for a future presentation.

OPEN AGENDA

During the open agenda portion of the meeting, the members discussed the following:

- Importance of ascertaining what services are being rendered by providers and what needs are not being met in order to move forward with a recommendation for a suitable course of action.
- Update by Ms. Bethell re Health Care meeting of June 13, 2003 – more information regarding suggestions to be shared with the members in the future.

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At this time, 3:22 P.M., Dr. Carrie Nero entered the meeting.

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- Pinellas County as a “donor” rather than a “recipient” county re indigent care dollars - possible implementation of a pilot project whereby funds could be used locally rather than being sent to State for allocation.
- Need for better education - guest speakers to address group about what they do and what services they provide.
- Changing sociology and demographics of Pinellas County - forceful message should be sent by Task Force re need to address health care shortfall.
- Primary health care concerns regarding quick access for recipients.
- Functions, role and funding of Pinellas County Health Department - provides preventive and public health care (not primary health care) - most funding provided through grants.
- Significance of mobile medical van in providing services to recipients with transportation problems.
- Need for community case managers.
- Concept of “health promoters” within communities.
- Increase in numbers of the working poor who have no health insurance.
- Need to match available resources with corresponding needs.
- Possible development of a Countywide program to be known as Healthy Pinellas available to employers to provide free preventive health care such as blood pressure tests, blood sugar tests, flu shots, et cetera, provided through grant funding.

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- Summary of information from Baycare report to be utilized in formulation of focus points.
- November 2003 deadline for submission of two-page white paper with recommendations - need to meet more intensely in October and November in order to accomplish the foregoing.
- Role of indigent health care clinics such as Turley Family Center.
- Need for creation of a matrix of providers to match needs with resources.
- Duplication of services - often driven by demand and need for services in a particular geographical area.
- Role of partnerships and collaborations in securing federal funding.
- Statistical report regarding 2-1-1 Tampa Bay Cares, Inc. distributed, a copy of which has been filed and made a part of the record.

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR JULY 17, 2003

Ms. Bethell announced that the next meeting has been scheduled for July 17, 2003; and that Elizabeth Rugg, Health Council, and Dr. Bruce Flareau, Turley Family Center, will conduct presentations.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 P.M.