

PALM BEACH COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

WORKSHOP SUMMARY

Meeting Date: October 27, 2009

Department: Administration

I. EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Title: Health Care System Initiatives and Issues

Summary: Representatives of several public and private organizations/institutions will describe ongoing and proposed initiatives to improve health care in Palm Beach County. The session was organized and will be moderated by Michael Dennis, M.D., Board Member, Florida Public Health Institute. In addition to the Public Health Institute, the Health Care District, Palm Beach County Medical Society, Florida Atlantic University, University of Miami Miller Medical School, JFK Medical Center and St. Mary's Medical Center will be participating.

Topics expected to be covered include:

- the need for a teaching hospital and the development of residencies;
- physician training;
- university collaborations;
- Health Care District priorities;
- hospital and physician compensation;
- promotion of a high quality medical system.


Questions and discussion from the Board will follow.

Background and Policy Issues: This workshop is intended to provide additional education and discussion on health care issues for the Board of County Commissioners. This workshop, requested by Commissioner Koons, broadens the discussion initiated during the April 26, 2009, workshop with hospital CEOs.

Attachments:

1. Survey Letter from the Florida Public Health Institute
 2. List of Health Care Organizations Contacted
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Recommended by: NA
Department Director Date

Approved By:  10/26/09
Assistant County Administrator Date

II. FISCAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

A. Five Year Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Fiscal Years 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014

Capital
Expenditures
Operating Costs
External Revenues
Program Income (County)
In-Kind Match (County)

NET FISCAL IMPACT \$

No. ADDITIONAL FTE
POSITIONS (Cumulative)

Is Item Included In Current Budget? Yes _____ No _____
Budget Account No.: Fund _____ Department _____ Unit _____
 Object _____ Reporting Category _____

B. Recommended Sources of Funds/Summary of Fiscal Impact:


There is no fiscal impact associated with this workshop item.

C. Departmental Fiscal Review:

III. REVIEW COMMENTS

A. OFMB Fiscal and/or Contract Dev. and Control Comments:

*Fiscal impact is indeterminable at this time.

 _____ 10/26/09
OFMB Contract Dev. and Control
 @ND @CN @W @M @S @C @D @E @F @G @H @I @J @K @L @M @N @O @P @Q @R @S @T @U @V @W @X @Y @Z
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B. Legal Sufficiency:


Assistant County Attorney

C. Other Department Review:

Department Director

Survey Letter

Dear Healthcare Professional:

Greetings in the name of improved health care for the people of Palm Beach County! In the summer of 2008 we convened a group of health care leaders who shared concerns about the quality and accessibility of care in our county. That session produced a general consensus that we had many areas of cooperation available to us that would concentrate on training of personnel and coordination of services. We invite you to become a part of this process.

We have been asked by Commissioner Jeff Koons, Chairman of the Palm Beach Board of Commissioners, to organize a workshop for his fellow Commission members designed to concentrate on the means with which to improve our health care system. Yes, admittedly a broad topic which requires focus. We would be pleased if you will be willing to participate in preparation for this event scheduled for October 27, 2009 at 10:30 a.m. Please save the date on your calendar.

What we hope you might provide us at your earliest convenience is a 1-2 page summary of your solution-oriented thoughts – paying particular attention to the following:
What do you and your colleagues see as the greatest impediments in this county in assuring the provision of high quality, comprehensive health care over the next two decades?

What role can you and your colleagues foresee for academic affiliations in this country during that time frame?

What levels of participation can you envision for your organization in an academic environment in the training of primary, specialty, and sub-specialty care providers?

If the County Commission (possibly in collaboration with the Health Care District) were to support the creation of a health care system, what form should it take?

A comprehensive safety-net hospital in the eastern county with full representation of specialties.

A network of primary care outpatient centers.

An improved, coordinated network relying on present and developing local resources.

Some combination of the above .

Additional suggestions.

What can your organization do to support the goal of a medical home for every county resident?

We will collate your responses and arrange a group of personal presentations to provide a program for the Commission that will be succinct, cogent, and informative. Your involvement is critical to the success of this

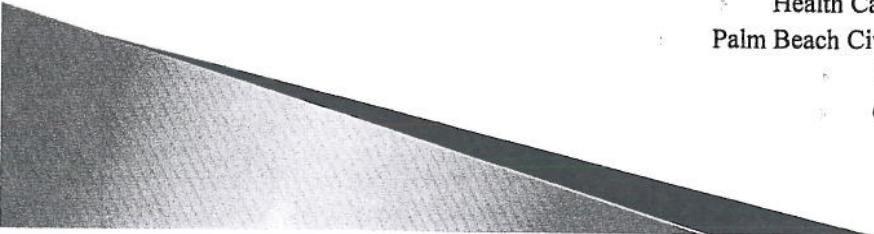
workshop and will hopefully bring about further progress in an area that challenges all of us to do our best.

Please return your summary by September 21st to the Florida Public Health Institute, 1622 N. Federal Highway, Suite B, Lake Worth, FL 33460. If you have any questions, please contact either of the undersigned.

Claude Earl Fox, MD, MPH
Director, Florida Public Health Institute
Cell: 443-838-1168
August 20, 2009

Michael T.B. Dennis, MD
Board Member, Florida Public Health Institute
Cell: 561-758-1252

Health Care Organizations Contacted

- JFK Medical Center
 - Good Samaritan Medical Center
 - St. Mary's Medical Center
 - Columbia Hospital
 - Jupiter Medical Center
 - Bethesda Memorial Hospital
 - Delray Medical Center
 - Boca Raton Community Hospital
 - Wellington Regional Medical Center
 - Palms West Hospital
 - Veterans' Administration Hospital
 - Quantum Foundation
 - Palm Healthcare Foundation
 - Community Foundation of Palm Beach and Martin Counties
 - United Way
 - Allegheny Franciscan
 - Palm Beach County Medical Society
 - Palm Beach County Department of Health
 - Children's Service Council
 - FoundCare
 - Caridad
 - Florida Community Health Center
 - Treasure Coast Health Council
 - Florida Atlantic University
 - University of Miami Miller Medical School
 - Economic Council of Palm Beach County
 - Nicklaus Children's Health Care Foundation
 - Health Care District of Palm Beach County
 - Palm Beach Civic Association Health Care Committee
 - Scripps Institute Florida
 - Cleveland Clinic Florida
- 

10/27/09
10:30 AM.

ADD'L BACKUP

THE FUTURE OF MEDICINE
A Report to the Community

October, 2009



Palm Beach County
Medical Society Services

THE FUTURE OF MEDICINE

A Report to the Community

October, 2009

Creating a Healthy Future for Palm Beach County

With a two-year foundation, the Future of Medicine Initiative has made significant progress in bringing together physicians, healthcare, business and community leaders to achieve the goal of improving the quality of health care in our community. The Palm Beach County Medical Society Services embarked upon this journey in 2007 by asking, "What can we do to improve health care in Palm Beach County?"

Since that time four specific task forces have been working to develop and implement innovative programs to address the following priority areas:

- *Increase the number of people with access to health care and health insurance*
- *Promote a culture of prevention and wellness*
- *Improve patient safety and quality of care*
- *Enhance and support the viability of physician practices*

A public awareness and marketing campaign "We are the Future of Medicine" addressing these priorities was launched on WPBF Channel 25 in partnership with area hospitals and the Palm Beach County Medical Society Alliance.

Together, our community has taken the first steps for "Creating a Healthy Future for Palm Beach County."

Future of Medicine Summit III

In partnership with the Florida Public Health Institute, the Future of Medicine Summit III was held on October 1-2 at Scripps Institute, Jupiter, Florida. The Summit featured nationally recognized healthcare leaders addressing healthcare reform and strategies to improve the availability and access to quality health care in Palm Beach County. Speakers included Jeremy Lazarus M.D., Board of Trustees American Medical Association; Harry Orf, PhD, Scripps Institute, Brian Klepper, PhD Health Economist Healthcare Performance; Sam Bierstock, M.D., Champions in Healthcare; Shari Erickson, M.P.H., American College of Physicians; Ed Goldman, M.D., MDVIP; and William Mohlenbrock, M.D., Patriot Data Solutions.

Panel presentations on “Graduate Medical Education” and “Facing the Challenges of the Future” featured local healthcare leaders including: James Lea, M.D., Stephen Babic, M.D., Brent Schillinger, M.D., Daniel Higgins, M.D., Maureen Whelihan, M.D., Michael Dennis, M.D., Anthony Silvagni, D.O., Brad Feuer, D.O., Jeanette Mladenovic, M.D., Jeffrey Davis, D.O., James J. Byrnes, M.D., Michael Friedland, Steve Falcone, M.D., Bob Broadway, Davide Carbone, Rep. Carl Domino, Rep. Maria Sachs, Mike Jones, and Patrick Bernet.

In addition each of the four task forces reported on their progress, challenges and opportunities.

Task Force Updates

Access to Care and Covering More People

James Lea MD, Chair

Accomplishments

- Initiated Project Reach Out at multiple health fairs sponsored by many organizations in the county and are forging more links with community groups across the county
- Participated in the Common Eligibility Task Force to select the tool to be used for screening for multiple agencies in the county
- Trained bi-lingual volunteers to use the current screening tool
- Identified 5,000 employers in the community (in partnership with the Treasure Coast Health Council) who will be surveyed in October, 2009, about health benefits for employees
- Continue partnership with Economic Council and Business Development Board to identify ways to encourage more employer involvement
- Increased participation of physicians and providers in Project Access

Challenges

- Increasing numbers of uninsured
- Declining tax revenues
- Societal anxiety

Opportunities

The Task Force will continue to work with business and community leaders to address health coverage issues, and explore opportunities for affordable coverage. The high priority of the task force will be to continue the efforts of Project Reach Out to educate the community on available healthcare resources and facilitate eligibility determination and enrollment.

Prevention and Wellness

Stephen Babic, MD Chair

Accomplishments

- Along with many partners successfully got the \$1.00 per pack sales tax passed and signed into law
- Began discussions with the County Commission about ways to encourage the use of County parks as a venue for exercise
- Served as part of School District task force that completed and received RWF grant to address obesity in children
- Started work, in conjunction with the Department of Health, on a project that will put medical students in our schools to work with students
- Explored options for continuing education courses for physicians featuring Dr. Victor DeNoble as instructor

Challenges

- Finding ways to more actively engage physicians in private practice to access available support for counseling their patients who are smokers or are overweight
- Identifying cultural and social beliefs and customs that contribute to smoking and obesity and developing specific strategies to address those issues

Opportunities

The Task Force will expand physician educational opportunities and patient resources. Community educational opportunities will be implemented in partnership with the University of Miami and Florida Atlantic University medical students. In addition, the Task Force will be working in partnership with community organizations in support of efforts addressing community wellness, smoking cessation and obesity.

Improve Patient Safety and Quality of Care

Brent Schillinger, M.D., Chair

Accomplishments

- Created a Fall Prevention Task Force which includes members from the Area Agency on Aging and the Palm Beach County Physical Therapy Association. This group has developed a program for primary care physicians to better assess the risk of falls in seniors which will be piloted in the fall of 2009.
- Initiated health literacy training for physicians, office staff, hospitals and other healthcare providers based upon the AMA Health Literacy program and

- distributed Ask Me 3 brochures via physician offices.
- In partnership with Passport MD, launched a PBCMS Personal Health Record
 - In coordination with the Children's Services Council, PBCMS is promoting and distributing Baby Basics to expectant mothers via obstetricians.
 - A Cultural Competency Initiative has been implemented to facilitate coordination of community resources and provide oversight to program implementation. Physician, hospital, health provider, and patient education and translation services will be cornerstones of the initiative.

Challenges

- Limited time and resources in physicians' offices to address these issues

Opportunities

The Task Force is moving forward with a strategic plan to develop a Medical Leadership Council comprised of physician, hospital and community leaders to coordinate efforts to improve patient safety and quality of care.

Enhance Physician Practice Viability

Dan Higgins, M.D., Chair

Accomplishments

- Developed Online Practice Management Resource Center
- Expanded educational opportunities
- Engaged in partnerships to expand e-prescribing and electronic medical records
- Formed the Health Network of the Palm Beaches, to support the development of the Health IT
- Conducted update of Palm Beach County Physician Census

Challenges

- Declining physician reimbursements
- Unknown future of healthcare reform
- Continued physician shortages

Opportunities

- The Task Force will continue to be an advocate for fair reimbursement for physician services, policies and opportunities to encourage young physicians to locate to our community. In addition the Task Force will continue the development of the Practice Management Resource Center and educational programs and services. A special focus will be on the support and nurturing of Palm Beach County Medical School and Residency Programs.

Based upon the input of the Future of Medicine Task Forces, the Steering Committee has identified the following key findings regarding the health care delivery system in Palm Beach County.

- **The health care delivery system in Palm Beach County is in critical condition.**

Escalating numbers of uninsured, disparities in health status, dwindling access to care, shortage of primary care physicians and critical specialty areas, aging physician population and shortages in emergency on call specialty care are bringing our health care system to a breaking point.

- **The failure of our health care system to support cost effective, coordinated high quality medical care affects us all.**

As the numbers of uninsured in Palm Beach County increase, many will resort to use emergency rooms, where care is more expensive. When forced to use emergency rooms, patients often arrive sicker where and with conditions more costly to treat. Without access to preventative care, conditions such as hypertension and diabetes progress to complex disease states which are more expensive to treat and leave patients debilitated and dependent.

- **The shortage of primary care physicians, surgeons, and other specialties will leave Palm Beach County ill-equipped to deal with the Palm Beach County's aging and diverse patient population.**

The results of the 2009 Palm Beach County Physician Census reveal a continued and alarming decline in primary care physicians, obstetricians, pediatricians and surgeons. Physicians are facing economic pressures that are making it difficult to keep their doors open. Flat or declining payments, increased administrative burdens, medical liability environment, and high cost of living have established Florida and Palm Beach County with the reputation as an unfriendly place to practice medicine.

- **The lack of communication and coordination of care patients receive increases the inefficiency, chances of medical errors, and duplication of services.**

The implementation of programs and services to improve patient /physician communication and the ability of patients to navigate an increasingly complex health care system are a priority for highly diverse patient population

- Health care reform begins at the local level.

The Palm Beach County Medical Society and the Future of Medicine Steering Committee has a watchful eye on the implications of pending health care reform legislation. We cannot wait for Congress to act.

Recommendations – Treatment Plan

The Future of Medicine Steering Committee has adopted an ambitious plan of action for the coming year and has identified four priority recommendations which require the attention of our elected officials and community leaders.

Ensure the continued funding of Project Access, the physician led volunteer program that serves an essential “safety net” for uninsured Palm Beach County residents. Project Access has provided care valued at over \$5,000,000 to over 5,000 residents and has screened and pre-qualified over 1,100 individuals for Health Care District Programs. The value Project Access provides volunteer specialty care referrals for Health Department and community clinics – a value of \$351, 746 over the past 18 months. In addition, Project Access is reaching out to the community to provide assistance in navigating the health care system – linking our most vulnerable to care. The demand for Project Access has dramatically increased – however the financial resources necessary to operate the program been reduced. The operational funding for Project Access has been provided by individual donors, fundraising efforts, foundations, hospital medical staffs, business and the Health Care District. We have been notified that the Health Care District will not provide previously allocated \$30,000 funding for Project Access. It is our opinion that this is a shortsighted decision which will further unravel our fragile health care safety net resulting in poor health care outcomes, increased emergency room visits and increased costs.

Reinstate the Health Care District retro payment program that provides fair reimbursement to physicians and hospitals providing care to patients determined eligible for Health Care District coverage after hospital admission. This decision by the Health Care District is fundamentally unfair. The Health Care District was created by the voters of Palm Beach County as a mandate to provide indigent care and trauma services. As physicians, we have taken responsibility to provide these services. The Health Care Taxing District was created by the citizens by Palm Beach County to provide trauma services and indigent care. We recognize that there is a budget crisis – but to not reimburse physicians and hospitals for the care they provide is simply unacceptable.

Immediate action to address the physician shortage issue must be taken This includes the development of comprehensive strategies to support the development and expansion of graduate medical education and Residency Programs and incentives to position Palm Beach County as a physician friendly community. A

suggested strategy includes loan forgiveness programs and physician recruitment programs. It is important to note that the Health Care District \$20,000 funding to monitor this critical issue has been eliminated. The Medical Society does not have resources to replace this funding,

An outside independent comprehensive review of health care delivery system in Palm Beach County needs to be undertaken. This review should include a review of the priorities and policies of the Health Care District, benchmarking best practices of other communities, and focusing on ensuring the provision of a health care safety net for our community.

Prognosis

Palm Beach County has an excellent foundation of hospitals, physicians, universities, business and community organizations committed to ensuring that our citizens have access to quality health care.

The vision and leadership of Palm Beach County government, business and community organizations has established our community as a leader in bio technology and medical research. With continued leadership, we can achieve the goals outlined t and set Palm Beach County on the road to being a world class healthcare community.

Future of Medicine Steering Committee

Jose Arrascue, M.D., Co- Chair

James Howell, M.D., Co Chair

Stephen Babic, M.D.

Michael Dennis, M.D.

Daniel R. Higgins, M.D.

Earl Fox, M.D.

James Lea, M.D.

Tenna Wiles, CEO

Patsy Westall Program Coordinator