

**DESERT HEALTHCARE DISTRICT
PROGRAM COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
April 12, 2011**

Attendance:

Members

Director Sidney Rubenstein, DDS – Chair
Director Glen Grayman, MD

Staff

Donna Craig, Chief Program Officer
Tricia Wheeler, Program Manager
Steve Brown, Executive Assistant
Peter Young, Interim CEO

Committee Members

Bev Greer, Administrator, Stroke Recovery Center
Robert Taylor, Superior Court Judge (retired)
Kim McNulty, Project Manager, CVEP
Mitch Nieman, Community Member
Allen Howe, City of Cathedral City

Absent Committee members

Elizabeth Toledo, Program Manager, Building Healthy Communities
Matthew Keane, PA-C, ICON

Guests

Gary Jeandron, Coachella Valley Health Collaborative
Diana Nancy De Leon, Program Manager, HEALNet
Lucy Moreno, Administrative Assistant, HEALNet
Lisa Brandl, Managing Director, Economic Development Agency
Tom Freeman, Commissioner, Economic Development Agency

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m. by Chairman Rubenstein.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A Motion was made by Committee member Greer and seconded by Committee member Taylor to approve the agenda with Item Type of Agenda number 5.c.1. (Grant Request #652) changed from “informational” to “action”. Motion was approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A Motion was made by Committee member Taylor and seconded by Director Grayman to approve the minutes of March 08, 2011 as submitted. Motion was approved.

GRANTS

a. Grant administration reports

Members received the latest update of current active grants.

b. Final grant reports

Chairman Rubenstein reviewed the final grant reports from:

- Grant #526, Desert AIDS Project, Dental Hygienist
- Grant #631, CSUSB/Coachella Valley Health Collaborative, Physical Fitness Website

c. Pending requests for consideration

ID# 652 The Committee reviewed a request for \$37,000 from CSUSB/Coachella Valley Health Collaborative to support Physical Fitness Challenge. A Motion was made by Committee member Grayman and seconded by Committee member McNulty to accept Staff's recommendation to forward this request to the Board for approval, with the funding amount recommended at \$33,234. Motion was approved.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Riverside County Housing Authority – Desert Hot Springs Family Medical Center

Chairman Rubenstein explained to the Committee that the Board had requested the Committee review the material included in their Committee Packets to determine if the County of Riverside (the County) has met the criteria of building a Medical Facility in the City of Desert Hot Springs. Chairman Rubenstein and Ms. Craig welcomed questions from the Committee regarding the information within the Packet.

Clarification was made regarding which of the four facilities that have been planned for the City of Desert Hot Springs (the County facility, the current Borrego Community Health Foundation family clinic, the planned Borrego Community Health Foundation expanded clinic and the City of Desert Hot Springs planned Community Health and Wellness Center) is under discussion. This facility (The Desert Hot Springs Family Care Center) is the building currently under construction by the County of Riverside, located on Palm Drive.

Ms. Brandl was asked to give an update on the current status of the project and the County's intent for the use of the facility. Ms. Brandl had three handouts for the Committee – a floor print of the facility, photos of the facility under construction and an updated memo outlining the services that will be provided within the facility. Ms. Brandl reviewed the memo, explaining 3,910 square feet is allocated to Mental Health Services, with a clinical psychiatrist on staff. These services will be for children, adolescence and families. There is clinic space established, to be utilized as an intake service area but can have expanded use in the future. Once the County was aware of Borrego Community Health Foundation (BCHF) receiving a federal grant to construct a full-service family clinic in the City of Desert Hot Springs (DHS), the County revised the plans for the use of this building, increasing the size and scope of mental health services and decreasing the size of the clinic space. The County is working with BCHF to ensure no duplication of services are offered, rather they will augment each other.

Ms. Brandl addressed Ms. Craig's inquiry about a Public Notice that was published in the Desert Sun by the Economic Development Agency for a 25,000sq ft facility within Desert Hot Springs to be utilized by the Department of Public Social Services. This Notice is for a facility to house services other than those planned for the Family Care Center (such as the food stamp program, SNAP).

Ms. Brandl expressed this facility of the County's will meet mental health needs, and provide wellness and prevention education.

Director Grayman expressed concerns based upon the original contract between the District and the County:

- The \$1,000,000 in funding was to be utilized for the acquisition of property. Construction and operations was specifically excluded in the language.
- The District saw the purpose of the clinic as delivery of direct patient care services.
- BCHF has since received a federal grant to provide expanded direct patient care services, which was an unknown factor at the time of the contract. The County facility now encompasses other services, such as the Family Care Center and WIC, which currently reside in DHS at separate locations. The number of square feet dedicated to intake is more of a triage station rather than direct patient care; those needing care will have arrangements made to be treated elsewhere. Other than mental health services, the rest of the facility appears to be office space that could be obtained through leased space in existing buildings.
- Based upon the premise of property vs. construction as well as providing direct patient care services, he does not see the rationality of the District giving \$1,000,000 – the County has not done what they stated they would do.

Ms. Brandl realized the concerns expressed, and acknowledges that the situation has changed over time; the County believes their position is based upon "and/or specialty services". The County therefore focused on mental health services and they believe the other services that are being offered match (what she believes to be) the District's Strategic Plan of addressing Healthy People 2010/2020. Director Grayman acknowledges that these are needed services but do not address the intent of the District.

Chairman Rubenstein voiced the District's support for services in DHS, and the question to be answered is should the District move forward with funding and, if so, how to do so legally. The District is committed to doing what is good for the community, but the District must look at what it is legally obligated to do.

Director Grayman questioned why the County moved forward with the construction of the facility when the medical center (as originally conceived) was no longer needed.

Community Member Neiman questioned the use of community based organizations; as is occurring now, these organizations will service clients within the space allocated for the Family Resource Center. They will also be able to utilize the area allocated for "shared usage".

Director Grayman questioned to space allocation for Mental Health Services; prior, it was reported as approx. 7,700 sq feet and the current floor plan has the space allocated at 3,910 sq feet. Ms. Brandl explained that the previous report was an error (if you add all the allocated space up, it was previous over the reported total) and the 3,910 sq feet is the correct allotment.

Community Member Greer inquired as to how the County will cover the cost of the building should the District not fund \$1,000,000. Ms. Brandl indicated the monies would be provided through the General Fund. She clarified that she unsure as to the source of these funds; she would need to speak with the County Budget Officer.

Chairman Rubenstein inquired as to staffing once the building was complete – is the County able to staff the programs? Ms. Brandl said at this time, yes they are able to do so.

Community Member Taylor inquired regarding the original contract section provided in the Committee Packet – was the intent for the District to be the purchasers of the land? Mr. Young affirmed that the intent was for the District to do so. Mr. Taylor then suggested that this Committee is not the Committee to render an opinion that would assist the Board of Directors; rather, this appears to be a legal issue.

Chairman Rubenstein concurred, and requested that County Representatives attend a meeting of the full Board to discuss this issue. He thanked the County for attending, stating that a beneficial discussion had occurred.

Community Member McNulty then inquired as to the availability of the "shared space" for other community based organizations (those not housed within the Family Resource Center) – would it be available for their use? Ms. Brandl answered that she would inquire and inform Ms. Craig as to the answer.

Chairman Rubenstein inquired if the County had any questions for the group; they did not. He reiterated the Board's commitment to services in Desert Hot Springs. Ms. Craig will inform the County Representatives as to when they will be calendared on a Board Agenda.

OLD BUSINESS

a. Update of Board Study Session: Food Assistance Program – Ms. Craig informed the Committee that the Board expressed their continuing support of Food Assistance. FIND Food Bank, Hidden Harvest and Bridges of Hope will complete their funding requests and the Committee will have them for review in May.

b. Update on Board-approved grants: Pathways to Success & Desert Women for Equality – Ms. Craig informed the Committee that the Board approved these requests as recommended by the Committee. An updated report of approved grants listed by Strategic Plan Objective was included in the Committee Packet.

COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

Ms. Greer informed the Committee that as an outcome of the Food Assistance meetings, she has met with representatives from the Mizell Senior Center and the Joclyn Senior Center to discuss the Stroke Recovery Center providing the meals for the Meals on Wheels programs. Ms. Greer is optimistic that this business model will benefit all three organizations and their clients.

Director Grayman inquired as to the status of the meeting between University of California, Riverside School of Medicine representatives, Pathways to Success representatives and Dr. Raul Ruiz (as mentioned in the “Pending Grants Under Review” report as provided in the Committee Packet). Ms. Craig responded that she is waiting for a confirmation of dates and invited Director Grayman to attend the meeting. Director Grayman expressed he would like to be included in the discussions. Ms. McNulty commended Ms. Craig for facilitating this meeting, and the District as funders taking a larger overview of the entire education program rather than focusing on just a small part of it.

STAFF COMMENTS

None.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:23a.m.