

**AMARILLO HOSPITAL DISTRICT
INDIGENT CARE COMMITTEE
MARCH 11, 1997**

Members

Mr. Mitch Contreras	Yes
Ms. Lilia Escajeda	Yes
Dr. Michael Guttenplan	No
Mr. John Irwin	Yes
Mr. Rick Jones	Yes
Mrs. Connie Tommerup	No
Mr. Steve Walton	Yes

Also Present

Mr. Mike Callahan	Northwest Texas Healthcare Systems
Mr. Doug Davenport	Northwest Texas Healthcare Systems
Mrs. Carey Mead	Northwest Texas Healthcare Systems
Ms. Donna DeRight	City of Amarillo

Media Present

Globe News
Channel 7
Channel 10
KGNC Radio

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 a.m. by Mr. Mitch Contreras, Chairman, in Room 306 of City Hall.

II. Overview of Indigent Care Agreement

Mr. Contreras gave an overview of the Indigent Care Agreement between the Amarillo Hospital District and Northwest Texas Healthcare Systems. The Board reviewed who an indigent is and the services that can be provided to them. They also reviewed the amount of the payment the AHD is to pay during the term of the agreement. The appeals process for people who are denied indigent care services was also reviewed.

III. Letter of Intent with South Plains Health Providers Organization (SPHPO)

Mr. Contreras advised the Board that a contract has not been prepared yet and a Letter of Intent is all that has been done at this time. Mr. Callahan stated that Northwest believes that a contract with SPHPO would provide the same if not better service for indigent

level of service will not go down. Mr. Irwin asked if Mr. Callahan had ever worked with SPHPO before and do they have facilities anywhere other than Amarillo? Mr. Davenport explained that they have facilities throughout the Panhandle Region and they are known to be a very reputable organization. Mr. Callahan stated that he had not ever worked with them before. Ms. Escajeda stated that they are the key player for the Tyler Street Resource Center who provides services for the homeless and indigent. Mr. Walton asked if the Indigent Care Agreement allowed Northwest to contract for indigent services. Mr. Contreras stated that it does allow them to have a third party involved. Mr. Walton also asked if the contract requires the Hospital Board to approve a third party agreement. Mr. Callahan advised that Hospital Board approval is not required. He stated that he wanted the Hospital Board to be aware of the agreement and review it. Mr. Contreras stated that Mr. Callahan will allow the board to review the agreement and have legal counsel review the contract to make certain that it will meet the needs of the indigent patients and the Indigent Care Agreement.

Mr. Walton asked if the disproportionate funds would be affected by contracting the indigent care services. Mr. Callahan stated that it will not affect the amount of disproportionate funding they receive and added that it will allow them to receive more funding for indigent treatment through SPHPO because they can get funding that Northwest cannot. Mr. Walton asked what the benefits would be and what the downside would be if they enter into this agreement. Mr. Davenport explained that the benefits are being able to receive more federal funds to care for indigent patients and stated that he could not see a downside to the agreement. He stated that the agreement will put the organizations working together with the same intent for caring for the indigent. Mr. Walton asked who could people contact if they had a complaint about indigent services. Mr. Callahan stated that the facilities manager could be contacted. Mr. Davenport advised that Dr. Lokey is the Indigent Care Coordinator and could also address indigent patient complaints. Ms. Escajeda asked how people find out about the appeals process. Mr. Davenport stated that when they apply for indigent care they are given a brochure which contains that information. Mr. Irwin asked if because more federal funds can be received by SPHPO for indigent care services if they could serve more indigent patients and would they need less money from the Hospital District. Mr. Callahan stated that these are both true. Mr. Irwin asked what would happen next. Mr. Callahan stated that they are waiting for approval from the Public Health Service Agency before the agreement can be finalized. There were no further questions or comments concerning this item.

IV. Indigent Care Statistics

Mr. Callahan presented the Indigent Care report. He stated that this is an unaudited report and could change. He also advised that the report includes only information regarding indigent patients who qualify through the Amarillo Hospital District and not any Medicaid or Medicare patients. The report compared the information for 1996 with figures from 1994 and 1995. Mr. Callahan advised that more people are being treated as outpatients which decreases the amount paid by the Hospital District. Mr. Davenport advised that the amount paid by the Hospital District is based on days. Mr. Walton asked where the

pharmaceutical costs were shown. Mr. Davenport advised him that this cost falls into the category for the disease. Ms. Escajeda asked that with all the changes in healthcare will this cause the healthcare in Amarillo to be affected. Mr. Callahan stated that it would. He stated that the amount of indigent care patients depends on the workforce in the city. Mr. Contreras thanked Mr. Callahan and Mr. Davenport for attending the meeting. He stated that a complete report would be presented after the anniversary date of the agreement which is May 8. There were no further questions or comments regarding this item.

V. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 a.m.

Mitch Contreras, Chairman

**AMARILLO HOSPITAL DISTRICT
WORKERS COMPENSATION COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 27, 1997**

Members

Mr. Mitch Contreras, Chairman
Mr. Steve Walton

Also Present

L. T. Faris, Crown of Texas Claims and Investigations

Mr. Mitch Contreras called the meeting to order at 7:53 a.m. and adjourned the meeting into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Pending Litigation pursuant to Section 551.071 of the Government Code of the State of Texas.

The Committee reconvened into open session at 8:32 a.m. L. T. Faris presented the Workers Compensation Report. Motion was made by Mr. Walton and seconded by Mr. Contreras to approve the report. The motion passed by a 2:0 vote of the Committee.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:37 a.m.

Mitch Contreras, Chairman