

INDIGENT CARE AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE MEETING
City Hall, Room 305
January 24, 2008, 12:00 p.m.

MEMBERS

Mr. Alphonso Vaughn, Chair
Ms. Becky Dodson
Dr. Paul Proffer
Mr. John Blanchard
Mr. Andy Obermueller

PRESENT

Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
No

Also Present

Ms. Vicki Covey	Director of Community Services Division, City of Amarillo
Mr. Matt Richardson	Director, Public Health, City of Amarillo
Mr. Dean Frigo	Director of Finance, City of Amarillo
Mr. Hector Mendoza	Assistant Director, Public Health, City of Amarillo
Mr. Kyle Sanders	Chief Financial Officer, NWTHS
Ms. Leesa Gilbert	Financial Needs Assessment Coordinator, NWTHS
Ms. Katrina Goldby	Administrator, Wyatt Health Clinic, NWTHS
Mr. Rick Love	Chief Executive Officer, Regents Health Network, Inc.
Mr. Michael Hemphill	Chief Operating Officer, Regents Health Network, Inc.
Ms. Evelyn M Padilla	Recording Secretary, Public Health Department, City of Amarillo
Mr. David Pittman	Amarillo Globe News

ITEM 1: Call to Order / Introduction of Guests and New Members

Mr. Vaughn called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance.

ITEM 2: Approval of Minutes from October 8, 2007

Mr. Vaughn presented the minutes from the October 8, 2007 Committee Meeting. Motion to approve the minutes as written was made by Dr. Proffer, seconded by Ms. Dodson and carried 4-0.

ITEM 3: Review NWTHS 2006 Indigent Service Report

Mr. Sanders presented the 2006 Indigent Service Report noting the data he will present is still in the original format that was agreed upon with the hospital district, and that he would be making a recommendation for some changes.

Mr. Sanders reported an increase from 4.13 to 4.2 in the average length of stay, and decreases in the number of qualified indigents on the roles and in days and discharges. He attributed the decrease in the number of indigents, which has slowly been decreasing since 2000, to people not accessing the system.

Mr. Sanders reported on the total hospital cost. He stated that the costs are calculated by using the Medicare cost report, which was established by the Federal government and is something that is consistent from year to year. He reported decreases from 4.5 million to 3.9 million in inpatient cost and an 11.4 to 9.9 decrease in outpatient cost. He attributed the decreases to Medicare Part D, which came in to existence in 2006. He stated patients receiving their drugs as a paid benefit by Medicare Part D are no longer considered Wyatt patients and are no longer counted. Other contributing factors for the decreases are that the entire pharmacy program is now in house; employees purchase the drugs and manage the inventory and they have gone to a 90-day supply of medications instead of a 30-day supply.

Mr. Sanders stated the average length of stay by DRG is the area that he would like to recommend a change on how it is trended. The recommendation for the change is due to Medicare moving to a new system and changing the name from DRG's to MS DRG's. He stated the principal is the same, however the number of MS DRG's did increase because they are more detailed. Mr. Sander's recommendation is to work with the representatives from the City to come up with new MS DRG's that are similar to the old DRG's or to come up with new ones that can be trended. He stated every DRG could roll into a Major Diagnostic Category (MDC). This would allow the DRG to be categorized and trended over time even though the DRG's may change. Mr. Sanders stated that if new MS DRG's were agreed upon that he would present it to the committee at the next meeting. Mr. Blanchard stated the concern of the committee is that the district stays compliant with the contract and that all of the obligations stated in the contract continue to be met.

ITEM 4: Discuss Disposition of Dental Clinic Property and Equipment

Mr. Richardson reported on the status of the dental clinic noting in October dental services were transferred to Regence Health Network (RHN). He added that a contract to move the dental records from the dental clinic to RHN was recently finalized between Texas Tech University Health Services (TTUHS), Northwest Texas Healthcare System (NWTHS) and the hospital district. Mr. Blanchard asked if moving the records violated any HIPPA laws. Mr. Richardson responded that since the patient owns the records and they are seen at RHN then the records could be moved. He added that the contract has also been reviewed by all of the attorneys and they agreed that the records could be moved.

Mr. Richardson reported that with the closure of the dental clinic the district was left with dental equipment, supplies and the property of the dental clinic. He stated the equipment includes expensive dental chairs that have hardly been used and a brand new autoclave that was purchased just before the closure. A list of the equipment was included in the packets. Mr. Blanchard asked if RHN could utilize the equipment. Mr. Richardson stated that RHN had already outfitted their clinic and that they could not utilize the equipment. Mr. Love also stated that RHN could not utilize any of the equipment. Mr. Hemphill added that he did not see anything on the list that RHN might need.

Mr. Richardson asked for the committee's recommendation to the board on the disposition of the dental equipment, supplies and property. Ms. Goldby stated that the dental clinic, which also sees Wyatt patient, might be able to utilize some of the equipment. Mr. Richardson stated that he has been informally approached by a board member, for the Coalition of Health Services, as to the future of the space and, that a dentist has also expressed interest in the property for a separate Medicaid dental clinic. Mr. Sanders stated that RHN serves the Medicaid population and that the district should be careful that it is not confused with another clinic that may be for Medicaid clients. Ms. Dodson stated if the indigent community or others, such as the hygiene school could benefit from the equipment then it should be donated to them so they can better serve the community. She added that she did not want the equipment to go to a dentist who would use the equipment to benefit for profit. Mr. Blanchard and Mr. Vaughn agreed with Ms. Dodson. Ms. Covey stated that she felt the equipment could be donated if a public benefit was established. Mr. Richardson will discuss the possibility of donating the equipment with the City attorney's.

Mr. Richardson stated the sale of the property could be sold with the stipulation on behalf of the district that the money be rolled back to the community dental services. He suggested the City, on behalf of the district, submit a Request for Proposals (RFP's) on how to dispose of the property, the equipment and some of the supplies. He stated the RFP could specify how the property is to be used. He will consult with the City Attorney regarding how the disposition of the property can be handled.

A motion that the disposal of the dental equipment be utilized to benefit the community by its use through the Wyatt, Amarillo College Dental Hygiene School, or any other non-profit agency was made by Ms. Dodson, seconded by Mr. Vaughn and carried 4-0.

Discussion of the dental clinic property was tabled by Mr. Vaughn.

ITEM 5: Presentation by Regence Health Network on Status of Dental Services

Mr. Hemphill distributed his report noting the number of patients seen continues in an upward trend and that the average wait time for a new patient is 30 days. He attributed the increase in patients to a larger percentage of indigent dental cliental.

Mr. Hemphill reviewed the financial summary noting about \$25,000 of charges have been reimbursed to RHN and that there has been a \$9,000 savings, or if broken down a \$40.61 per patient discount.

Staff levels remain the same however, a dentist, Dr. Mark Frost, has accepted an appointment to practice at RHN. Mr. Blanchard asked if it is anticipated that the average wait time will reduce with another dentist on staff. Mr. Hemphill stated it is anticipated that the wait time will decrease once the new dentist was on board.

ITEM 6: Public Comments

There were no public comments.

ITEM 7: Adjournment

THERE being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.



Mr. Alphonso Vaughn, Chair