

Carroll County United Health and Wellness Team Notes
10 August 2010

Present: Carlene Ferrier, Bert Astles, Jen Collard, Beverly Woods, Donna Sargent, Maryellen Boudman, Cyndi Paulin, Lori Lenart

Homework: The group will reach out to medical providers along the bus route to see whether they are accepting new patients and what sort of payment they accept (private insurance, public insurance, sliding fee, etc.)

Next meetings: September 14, October 12 (Day after Columbus Day) at 3:30 pm at Tri-County CAP Resource Center.

Bus tour to promote health care access

The main thrust of the work focused on the potential bus tour of facilities that would also highlight the Carroll County Transit bus route (increase accessibility to healthcare). The group agreed to pursue the tour as a way to increase awareness of what's available only if enough people are interested in participating and if there are enough places to visit (those who accept Medicare, Medicaid, no insurance, have a sliding scale fee, new patients).

The first step will be for to people to call using the list of providers along the route that Lori compiled. Staff will put together a narrative of all the questions so that everyone is asking the same questions and getting comparable data and will set up a way to record the data (ie. Survey Monkey).

- Jen will call Lakeside Physical therapy, Tamworth Medical Building (Huggins), Silver Lake Massage Therapy, Saco River Medical Group (& VA Clinic), Mountain Center, Physical Therapy, Juliet Dickinson (Chiropractor), Diane Johnson and Bill Nagahiro (Mental health), T. Murray Wellness Center, Dr. David Sporicic (dentist),
- Beverly will call Dr. Becky Mulkern, Woman's Health Center (Sandwich)
- Bert get information from Northern & Moultonborough Family Medicine
- Carlene will contact Northern Women's Healthcare and the Memorial Hospital physician practice
- Maryellen Boudman – Health Clinic, Laconia
- Staff will contact Tamworth Dental Center, Pat Lilly, Sheryl Power and Karen Curtin
- **Still need volunteers to contact the following:**
- Dr. Michael Kahn, Main St. Professional Building, North Conway
- North Conway Dental Associates, 125 Pine Street, North Conway
- Dr. Steven Hoffmann, Main Street, North Conway
- Dr. John Kovalik, Mechanic Street, North Conway
- Dr. Glick, dentist, Indian Mound Shopping Center, Ossipee
- Dr. Richard Neal, dentist, 190 S. Main St., Wolfeboro
- Dr. George Gaillardetz, 209 S. Main St., Wolfeboro
- Dr. Silva, dentist, S. Main St. Wolfeboro
- Diane Bellwood, chiropractor, 51 Mason Rd. Center Sandwich
- Interlakes Family Dental
- Interlakes Medical Center

Regarding the tour:

- Buses won't be available for CCTA until November, probably, so if we do the tour, we will have to get buses from some other source (Northern Human Services, Tri-County CAP?).
- The tour could consist of 2 trips, the northern route in the morning and the southern route in the afternoon, all leaving from West Ossipee.
- Target audience would include: school nurses, town welfare directors, a representative from Starting Point, Partners in Health, Family Strength, AA/Alanon/NA, etc., VNA, CCHHC, senior centers (Ossipee, Moultonborough, North Conway, Wakefield, Wolfeboro), food pantries, county jail, elderly housing complexes, Northern Human Services, and social workers, the homeless liaison, clergy, high school guidance counselors and housemasters, assistant principals, private mental health care providers, and emergency room nurses.

What if the tour is not rigorous enough? How else can we increase access to healthcare?

- Share information about healthcare availability with legislators?
- Beverly suggested bringing in the mobile free screening clinic. She will follow up with Family First and others to see how we might bring it to Carroll County.
- Donna suggested approaching one of the Federally Qualified Health Care (FQHC) providers to expand into Carroll County, like Avis Goodwin out of Rochester. They will be closing down the Rochester clinic and building a new one in Somersworth.
- There is a FQHC initiative being explored by the North Conway Health Cooperative, but Bert said it was decided that the board of directors for White Mountain Community Health Center decide to proceed first before the cooperative would get involved with the process.
- Donna said a group in Ossipee worked with a FQHC in Durham about 15 years ago to establish a health center in to Ossipee, but the process got shut down once it hit the NH Senate.

Uninsured rates

Carlene said she is still following up on this and will get a copy of the Huggins Hospital community needs assessment as well as some information from the NH Public Health Association website.

Office of Rural Health

Lori said that this state office does not provide any information about the impact of the Nation Health Reform on the state but did put together a list of other regional and national organizations that focus on improving access to healthcare as well as rural health. The Kaiser Family Foundation, a national organization, is probably the best national one with lots of information about the national scene (www.kff.org). The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (www.rwjf.org) is also another good one, Bert added.

Other items

Health Kids buy in for 19-26 year olds - is it available in NH? Insurance for 19-26 year olds is available through parents' insurance if have private insurance. A buy-in has been on the state's table for over a year but don't think it is currently an option. (Staff looked this up this following the meeting and confirmed that the buy-in program through Health Kids is currently on hold.)