

Meeting Summary
For
Alachua County Health Care Advisory Board
July 17, 2019

Location: Community Services Building, 218 SE 24th St, Gainesville, FL 32641

Board Members Present: Brendan Shortley, Cathy Cook, Frank Catalanotto, Grant Harrell, and William Garst

Others Present: Ajay Mittal (UF Equal Access Clinic), Karen Brown (Meridian), Paul Myers (ACHD), Wendy Resnick (UF Shands), Cindy Bishop (CSS), Chanel Thomas (ACDSS), and Sarai Cabrera (ACDSS)

Call to Order

William Garst, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

Welcome and Introductions

Brendan Shortley, Chair, greeted both members, guests, and staff present.

Minutes

Minutes from HCAB's meeting for May 15, 2019

Motion moved by Frank Catalanotto to approve minutes for 5/15/19, and seconded by Cathy Cook

New Business/Presenters

Department of Health Presentation (Paul Myers):

Needle Exchange Program

Reference Summary of Chapter 2019-143 signed by Governor on 6/26/19 handout (attached), Chapter 2019-143 Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 366 (attached), and report on the number of persons living with HIV identified as IDU as a risk factor and diagnosed with Hepatitis C (attached). There was a lot resistance towards the Needle Exchange Program, but the pilot program has demonstrated reduction in transmission of diseases. Paul is currently reviewing the data – based on the preliminary review, there is a demonstrated need in Alachua County. 56% of the respondents on the WellFlorida survey indicated substance abuse issues. This is not a DOH program. The BoCC will need to move forward with establishing an ordinance, then it will need to be sub-contracted out to a vendor, but the challenge will come from the fact that no federal, state, or local funding can be used for this initiative. All funds will need to come from other sources, such as foundations, corporations, etc.

Grant Harrell will be identifying research in support of implementation. HCAB members expressed their interest in supporting the implementation, but would like it to be implemented appropriately. It was suggested that a subcommittee be developed to discuss this issue further. There are additional opportunities for accessing grants, if there is a community committee. HRSA had released a grant last year for committees working to create an opioid response. Potentially a wealth of data may be released for the agencies that received that funding. JBS – Robert Childs – is a TA working on harm reduction implementation.

Hepatitis A Data

Alachua County has had very few cases; this is in credit to all the relationships held throughout partner agencies in the community. There is low risk of Hep A transmission in food service industry. Grant Harrell thanked DOH for making the Hep A vaccination program extremely low-barrier. Paul stated that they have use the flu vaccination program structure to roll this program out as well.

Pediatric Access (Grant Harrell):

At the GNVL4ALL Back to School event on August 1st, community families were provided backpacks as well as on-site dental check-ups, sealants, and physicals. The Mobile Outreach Clinic (MOC) is seeing hundreds of children coming to get physicals. The concern is that these children do not have a medical home that is monitoring their growth. Is it that their mobile and first-come, first-served model makes it most accessible? Is it related to transportation? Convenience? Lack of knowledge regarding their own current health plans? Equal Access also reported having a high rate of pediatric patients.

Program Updates

Alachua Cares

Social Services is once again accepting applications for Alachua Cares. They are able to accept additional 25 – 30 participants. Please continue to refer individuals seeking vision assistance to the program.

GRACE

Plans continue forward on the closing of Dignity Village. Some individuals will decide to enter services at GRACE (inside the fence). While there are many buildings on the GRACE campus, they require renovation before they can be used to provide services.

CHIP & SNC

CHIP process is almost complete. Survey data is already collected. Over the next year and a half, they will be working to develop a new CHIP.

Next SNC meeting will be on 7/19/19.

Children Services Advisory Board

The Children's Trust currently has five members. They are still working to fill the remaining five positions; the applications are still pending. The Trust is waiting to fill all slots before making program/funding decisions. In the meantime, they are working on the development of day-to-day protocols, staffing, etc. A variety of community program representatives show up at trust meetings to advocate for the populations they serve. The Trust has decided that it will continue funding the programs begun by the CSAB.

Old Business/Discussion

Tobacco 21 Update

Tobacco 21 representatives met with Alachua County regarding the licensing process. None of the municipalities have opted out. They are working on strategies for educating residents including new UF students from outside of Alachua County regarding the new ordinance. A third-party vendor will conduct the monitoring.

Adjournment

Next meeting will be on September 18, 2019.

Motion moved by William Garst to adjourn meeting, and seconded by Frank Catalanotto.

Adjourned at 5:16 pm by Brendan Shortley