

**Meeting Summary
For
Alachua County Health Care Advisory Board
July 15, 2020**

Location: Zoom Meeting

Board Members Present: Brendan Shortley, Melissa Whiley, Frank Catalanatto, William Garst, Leah Vail-Compton, Gay Koehler-Sides, Maureen Novak, Grant Harrell

Others Present: Kathleen Pagan, Candice King, Claudia Tuck, Cindy Bishop, Katherine Jordan (Meridian CSU, MRT)

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:08 p.m.

Adoption of Minutes

Leah Vail-Compton moved to approve minutes, seconded by Frank Catalanatto. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business/Presenters

CHOICES Funding

Chair Shortley reviewed progress of HCAB CHOICES funding recommendation. Letter to BoCC included in packet. Ms. Tuck stated she has received the letter and has forwarded it for review. County Manager will bring it to the attention of the Board of County Commissioners. Budget discussions will begin in early August. Bishop and Tuck will monitor and report progress to Advisory Board. Harrell commented that COVID data and impacts of testing could be useful data in terms of value volunteer hours contributed by UF Mobile Clinic Team and other safety net clinics. Whiley offered to run some numbers and offered to provide the comprehensive report she compiled with Alachua County data.

COVID 19 Update

Whiley observed some data points may be missing from state reports. Bishop stated Health Dept power point presentation attached to meeting packet. Many members commented on the very good numbers posted for Alachua County. King noted issues with wait times for appointments and testing. Koehler-Sides noted patients who are asymptomatic are a lower priority for testing labs and there 35% no-show rate for appointments. Discussion of testing issues and antibody testing discussed. Some discussion followed on UF opening; plans for this are in progress.

School Opening

Novak updated the group on health concerns related to school re-openings. Members of the Health Care Advisory Board could assist the school board in the decision-making process. Whiley posted an article on screen discussing most effective policies in controlling the pandemic. (Link is posted in the chat). Novak noted differences in age groups are important in relation to fomite discussion. Discussion by group regarding mitigation related to students in classrooms, sports participation and articles related to COVID-19 transmission. Harrell stated must distinguish between conversations on safety of children and that of transmission in the community. Novak advised group should be ready to offer expertise in school board and county policy related to COVID-19.

Advisory Board Open Positions

Bishop advised openings include appointed positions that require letters of recommendation from specific agencies. Plan is to submit as many as possible to BoCC in the very near future. Shortley advised members to make suggestions.

Program Updates

We Care – no presentation this meeting

CHOICES

Bishop stated amendments to CHOICES contracts due to COVID impacts have been completed. Appreciated timely submission of requested information and support in completing these amendments. Deadline for required 6-month reporting has been extended on a case-by-case basis. Amendments will be reviewed again in September.

Alachua Cares—no presentation this meeting

Grace Marketplace

Shortley reported Dignity Village has been closed. Some residents have moved inside Grace Marketplace and some to a neighboring property. Many others may have been displaced elsewhere. Population outside fencing has been reduced. Safety net clinics have combined efforts to provide healthcare at Grace Marketplace.

CHIP (Community Health Improvement Plan)

Koehler-Sides reported the most recent Community Health Assessment has been completed. The two priority areas are access to healthcare and wellness; the same two identified in the last assessment. Under healthcare access, areas of concern are access to dental, mental health, and primary care services. Under wellness, areas of concern are housing and utilities, nutrition and access to nutritious food, and prevention and management of chronic disease. From this assessment the Community Health Improvement Plan is moving forward. Goals will be developed for each of the areas of concern. Various community boards will be involved in this process-the next discussion will be during the Safety Net Collaborative meeting on Friday. Discussion of CHOICES funding impacts to community health concerns. Access to primary care was identified as a strategic goal as part of the Community Health Assessment discussion.

Safety Net Collaborative Meeting

Included in previous discussion; no further comments.

Old Business/Discussion

King inquired of the group whether there are any existing maps of comprehensive health care access points in East Gainesville including FQHC's. King suggested this might be useful not only to her own group, but to others as well. Harrell noted a recommendation was made to Karissa Raskin regarding inclusion of a map in the development of the resource application being developed for community use in locating services. The app is now in the beta phase.

Recent Accomplishments for dental therapist legislative efforts

Catalanotto reported has received an award to fund this year's legislative and advocacy efforts. Will be partnering with Florida Voices for Health and the Florida Urban League. Community Engagements will follow this year. Hopefully one will occur in Gainesville. A large portion of the budget will go to media relations to emphasize the problem of access to health care in the state.

Tobacco 21 Updates

Shortley stated not much current news. Discussed issues with enforcement; reported process is moving in the right direction.

Board Comments and Announcements

Vail-Compton reported provider agencies are using social distancing and telehealth to provide mental health services and home visits are being done outside whenever possible. DCF oversees the state mental hospitals; admissions were temporarily halted but have been resumed with safety protocols in place. Have been working on diversionary plans. Meridian in Alachua County has been very successful in assisting with forensic diversions. Negative COVID testes are required before admission to a state hospital. NFETC has had testing of staff and clients with assistance by the National Guard.

Vail-Compton also reported that the Alachua County co-responder teams have been very successful and new teams are being implemented. Jacksonville has started a new team modeled after Alachua County's.

Shortley reported many of the safety net programs are providing telehealth in Alachua County.

Harrell reported that outreach teams including Meridian staff and UF medical student volunteers are providing COVID testing, wound care, and other medical services to the unsheltered homeless population along with items such as food and hand sanitizer. Students are exposed to community medicine and awareness of community resources and how CSS provides services. Formalization of Street Medicine Program is occurring. Students will participate under supervision of UF Health and Community Support Services staff. Development of rounds program that can deal with acute and chronic disease management.

Tuck reported on efforts to obtain a year-round staff position to support this program.

Tuck reported that the Syringe Exchange Program was presented to BoCC and a draft ordinance is now underway. The program was developed as a collaboration among many county organizations. A public hearing should occur in August or September. Harrell is collaborating on obtaining a grant for this program.

Next Meeting

Next meeting will be held Wednesday, September 16, 2020 at 4pm via Zoom. Adjourned at 5:21 p.m. by Brendan Shortley.

Zoom chat notes attached:

00:51:05 Kathleen Pagan: There is an article online at BBC.com about contract tracing. Includes Savannah GA and New Haven CT and mentions different staffing levels in northern and southern states. Also mentions volunteers are utilized in New Haven

01:00:15 Melissa: <https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.07.06.20147199v1>

01:32:04 Melissa: <https://bmcmmedicine.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12916-020-01692-w>

01:33:01 Melissa:
https://journals.lww.com/pidj/Fulltext/2020/08000/The_Role_of_Children_in_the_Dynamics_of_Intra.30.aspx

01:33:40 Katherine Jordan: Thank you for letting me join in your meeting. I have another meeting to attend.

01:34:18 Melissa:
https://journals.lww.com/pidj/Fulltext/2020/08000/Pediatric_Inflammatory_Multisystem_Syndrome_With.32.aspx

01:37:58 Melissa: <https://www.researchsquare.com/article/rs-34305/v1>

01:44:05 frankcat: Got to go!. Thanks again for support of dental therapy. More to follow at future meetings.

01:53:44 Kathleen Pagan: Great work and partnerships everyone. Thanks so much

01:57:03 William Garst: Good bye everyone

Respectfully submitted by Cindy M. Bishop, Healthcare Advisory Board Staff Liaison

Approved by the Healthcare Advisory Board at its September 16, 2020 meeting.