

**Regional Health Alliance
Access to Care
Tuesday, June 23, 2015
Grace Health**

Present: Thamary Diaz, Grace Health; Raymond Higbea, Grand Valley State University; Cheryl Hinds, Grace Health; Amy Terry, Bronson; Barb Travis, Community HealthCare Connections; Jennifer VanValkenburg, Regional Health Alliance; Nidia Wolf, Albion Health Care Alliance.

| Agenda Item | Discussion | Action |
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| 1. Call to Order | Barb Travis called the meeting to order at 9:35 am. All members were introduced. | |
| 2. Approval of minutes | <p>There were no additions or corrections to the minutes from the May 26, 2015 meeting.</p> <p>I make a motion to accept the May 26, 2015 minutes as presented. Motion by: Cheryl Hinds Second by: Amy Terry Motion passed unanimously</p> | |
| 3. Access to Care Goals | <p>2015 Access to Care Goals Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High Risk Invention Team – This group is still on hold since they are awaiting approval on a grant recently submitted. • Enroll Calhoun – Amy Terry stated a Health & Human Services grant has been applied for. The grant is for \$1 million dollars to cover Southwest Michigan and supply a navigator for Calhoun County and a mobile navigator to meet with people in rural areas. A total of 3 navigators will be provided through this grant. Notification will be received in September regarding if approval has been received or not. Currently, Michigan Primary Care Association (MPCA), has a mobile navigator who can assist; however, she is being utilized by several communities. Open enrollment begins November 1. Things are on hold until notification of the grant is received. If funding is not received, we will still do things but at a lower level. Amy stated the Kaiser survey is showing that the uninsured rate is 40% higher than our local data. It was noted that we have a lot of rural areas. Also, Barry, Branch, and Calhoun Counties are combined in the Kaiser survey which is using 2010 data. • Community PCP Database – The group resurveyed provider offices and received 21 out of 27 responses. They plan to have data ready to report in July. • Advocacy at State Level – Senator Mike Nofs has been contacted; however, he and his assistant, Greg Moore, are in sessions at the same time as our Access to Care meetings. Therefore, the regular scheduled July meeting is cancelled and a special meeting will be set up to meet with Senator Mike Nofs. Questions used for meeting with Dr. Bizon will be reviewed and updated. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barb and Jennifer will contact Access to Care group with date to meet with Senator Nofs. Questions will be prepared prior to the meeting. |

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| 3. Access to Care Goals (cont.) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of Community Health Worker Model – Barb met with Tom Brown regarding the Neighborhood Visitor program in Albion. He uses volunteers and Albion College students to share information in neighborhoods. Question – do we want a community worker model or a health care model? It was decided to have a health care worker model – someone who is integrated in the community and trusted in the community. The community health worker will be someone who helps connect people to the services they need. Thamary stated Grace Health has advocates who help connect patients with needed services. What level of training will be needed? It is possible to start with the Front Line meeting and provide additional training if needed. Areas we can reach out to for community health workers: churches (Washington Heights Church), Neighborhood Councils, schools, and the Health Department. There are several models that can be reviewed. Recommended that our own resources be used rather than starting something new. Next step: Put together a plan and present it to the group. | |
| 4. Brainstorming New Goals | <p>Barb stated there are not measurables for our current goals. If the High Risk Intervention group doesn't receive funding, what do we do? Are there struggles getting people into a PCP? What is considered a reasonable time for a new patient to get into a doctor? Nidia stated it is 6 weeks for Albion. Amy commented it takes 3 months to get in to see some providers. Thamary stated Grace Health can see new patients within 2-3 weeks. With the addition of providers, Grace Health is getting more openings each day to see additional patients.</p> <p>High deductibles for insurance and prescriptions make it difficult for people to get the care and/or medication needed. Amy stated there is a push towards healthy lifestyles in order to reduce the amount of medication needed. Are there other ways to improve health other and the use of medications? It was noted that education has a lot to do with healthy lifestyles. Grace Health provides a Diabetes on a Budget class which teaches people how to eat healthy on a budget. The Y-Center has a Diabetes Prevention Program which is a 16-week class to help reduce your body weight. It is felt that access should include prevention – what can be done to prevent a health issue before it occurs? What resources are available for low income people and people at risk? There are programs available in the community. Healthy Equity Alliance was working with churches when they had a grant. Victoria Reese may be a good resource for connecting with churches. We will continue to monitor high deductibles and concerns people have with being able to pay. Amy stated Bronson is working to change their Charity Care policy in order to help people who are having difficulty paying their high deductible.</p> <p>How do we want to measure the impact of Enroll Calhoun? Last year there was a 16% increase in the Marketplace. This year we would like to see a 3% increase. Insurance premiums are still too high for some people and they will not enroll. Currently, cost sharing</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thamary will share Grace Health's resource list, Nidia will share Albion's resource list and Jennifer will talk with Victoria regarding connections and updates. |

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| 4. Brainstorming New Goals (cont.) | <p>for Healthy Michigan. If this increases to 7% for people at 100% - 150% poverty level, it will be cost prohibitive.</p> <p>The goal for the Community PCP Database survey will be 100%.</p> <p>New goal: Expand definition of access to include prevention.</p> | |
| 5. Announcements / New Business | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Health Department moved from the west end of town to a central area in downtown Albion. • The Senior Forks Center in Albion moved into the same building as the Health Department and will be able to expand a little. • A Needs Assessment is being worked on for Albion. Data should be available by December. | |
| 6. Adjournment | Meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m. | Next meeting: Awaiting date to meet with Senator Mike Nofs |

Submitted by Diane Craig, June 25, 2015