



Health Care Advisory Board

The September 23, 2020 Regular Meeting of the Health Care Advisory Board was held, providing virtual access and on-site access in the Board of County Commissioner's Chambers, 1st Floor, located in the Manatee County Administration Building at 1112 Manatee Avenue West, Bradenton, FL 34205. The meeting commenced at 5:07 pm. A quorum was established.

Roll Call

Members Present

- JoOni Abnar
- Jill Cherbow
- Cliff Feldman
- Matthew Lapointe
- Mary Masty
- Dr. James Nguyen
- Jane Pfeilsticker
- Geneva Presha
- Dr. Ibrahim Saad
- Chanel Ziemba

Members Absent

- Lisa McCoy
- Kirk Zeppi
- Bonnie Ramseur

County Staff Present

- Ava Ehde, Director Neighborhood Services (via phone)
- Joshua Barnett, Health Care Services Manager
- Janice Dunbar-Smith, Administrative Services Coordinator
- Debbie DeLeon, Neighborhood Services Coordinator

Public Present

Tracey Weedon of First Step of Sarasota, Inc.

Welcome and Introductions

Dr. Nguyen called the meeting to order at 5:07 p.m. and introduced the members of the Board.

Approval of Meeting Minutes, August 26, 2020

Jill Cherbow moved that the minutes of the August 26, 2020 meeting be approved. The motion was seconded by Matthew Lapointe and passed unanimously.

2020 Timeline

The October 28, 2020 meeting will be the board's Annual Meeting at which the Officers will be elected and the Board's agenda for 2021 will be set.

Presentation: Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Services by First Step of Sarasota, Inc.

The Chairman introduced Tracey Weedon, LCSW of First Step of Sarasota, Inc. Ms. Weedon gave a presentation about her agency's medication assisted treatment ("MAT") of substance use disorders. Ms. Weedon answered questions from the Board members and Dr. Nguyen who thanked her for the excellent presentation.

Indigent Health Services & Statistics

The Chairman asked Joshua Barnett to update the Board on indigent health services and statistics. Mr. Barnett discussed a planned survey of those who have used the County's health services system. The survey will be prepared in English, Spanish and Creole. The County hopes to learn why people access care through the County's system and when and where they do so. He expects to find high concentrations of indigent services provided in certain neighborhoods and will use the County's Arc-GIS system to determine where service users are most concentrated.

Mr. Barnett also updated the Board on the status of We Care Manatee, one of the County's providers. He indicated that We Care has spent their entire budget and appear to be operating efficiently and serving the County's clients well.

Review Indigent Health Care BOCC Recommendations

Dr. Nguyen then called upon Joshua Barnett to review the recommendations for Indigent Care that will be brought back to the BOCC. Mr. Barnett presented the 2020 recommendations that the HCAB had made to the BOCC and discussed how some of those recommendations have been revised to address questions made by the BOCC. He described the HCAB's recommendations as emphasizing the need for the County to enhance investment in a "community-based healthcare safety net" rather than relying upon a "hospital-based safety net." The BOCC is set to adopt those recommendations at its October 29, 2020 regular meeting.

End of Year Recommendations Summary Report

Dr. Nguyen called upon Ava Ehde to discuss the County budget procedure. Ms. Ehde explained the County's budget process and timing. Board Member Pfeilsticker asked Ms. Ehde whether the County would play a role in distributing or administering a COVID-19 vaccine when it becomes available. Ms. Ehde asked Joshua Barnett to answer and he explained that the County's emergency services department is coordinating with Dr. Bencie of the Florida Department of Health in Manatee to develop and coordinate programs for the administration of vaccines.

Ms. Ehde also discussed how CARES Act money is being used to increase the availability of testing and contact tracing.

Finally, Ms. Ehde informed the Board of the tele-health services being provided in 6 of the County's schools by MCR Health, Inc.

Meeting Schedule

The Board established its meeting dates for the remainder of 2020 as follows:

October 28
November 18
December 16

New/Old Business

None

Public Comments

Mr. Barnett thanked this Board for their work, dedication, and thoughtfulness around the priorities of indigent health care but also for its support and collaboration of the work accomplished by the County. Mr. Barnett's comments were made due to upcoming appointments or reappointment of HCAB members by the BOCC, which will be made prior to the October meeting.

Next Meeting, October 28, 2020

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Approved

James Nguyen, MD - Chair

Date