Ad-Hoc Emergency Committee Meeting

August 29, 2013, 4:00 p.m., Eastville

Members Present: Spencer Murray, Larry LeMond, Pat Coady, Martina Coker, Willie Randall, Dr. Molera, and Dr. Pamela Gray
Also present: County Administrator Katie Nunez.

The meeting of the Ad-Hoc Emergency Committee was convened at 4:00 p.m.

Spencer Murray moved to accept the minutes of the 8/15/2013 meeting with the correction that Dr. Gray had not worked at Sentara Hospital and was seconded by Pat Coady. The motion was approved unanimously.

Dr. Molera and Dr. Gray have now been formally appointed by the Board of Supervisors to this Ad-Hoc Committee and all welcomed their involvement and assistance in this endeavor.

Information on Community Access Hospitals

Spencer Murray provided the following information on Community Access Hospitals (CAHs): program began in 1997 to preserve rural hospitals. There should be 35 miles between hospitals (or 15 miles in the mountainous region). Medicare is not sufficient to cover true costs of care. Medicare covers a portion of eligible Medicare costs. There are 1,329 CAHs nationwide. Of those, 849 do not meet all of the requirements of a CAH, according to a report from the Office of Inspector General. This report recommends a re-examination of criteria to qualify as a CAH. There is a cost increase to the federal budget, based upon the existing # of CAHs because of the reimbursement rates. He believers our timing may be appropriate to look at the establishment of a CAH. He referenced that MEDPAC, an advisory group under the Federal Health Care Act, is looking at rates and reimbursement rates for medical services.

Martina Coker provided the following handouts and reviewed them with the group: 1) Dept. of Health & Human Services Fact Sheet on CAHs; 2) Service Area Populations for Virginia CAHs; 3) Article written by Martina Coker for the CBES (Citizens for a Better Eastern Shore); 4) CAH Information; 5) Martina Coker's interview notes with Bath County CAH and others.

Dr. Gray asked if there are any financial resources for serving a migrant population. She also indicated that a partnership or component of our consideration should be a teaching component, such as a partnership with EVMS.

Pat Coady indicated that the distributed 5 Year Rural Health Plan referenced a Flex Plan. What is the process to put this together?

It was discussed that there had been mention over the last 6 months that certain land might be donated for a medical facility. This needs to be confirmed if there are solid offers on the table relative to land.

There was discussion about the role of Rural Health and how that integrates with Riverside. This committee needs to gain a better understanding of this relationship. The question was posed as to when we should meet with Rural Health to see if they would be receptive to working with the County in solving our issue. It was decided that it is pre-mature to meet with Rural Health or any other provider until the committee has a better understanding of all of our options as well as a clearly defined county need and what the county can offer a potential provider.

There was discussion about the corporate status of Riverside Shore Memorial Hospital and the Foundation and how much flexibility is there in the Foundation's mission. Spencer Murray and Willie Randall will continue to work on this issue. It was relayed that the planned new hospital will have a total of 56 beds – 12 beds as "swing beds" and 44 beds for general use.

NEXT STEPS

- Research financial resources for serving a migrant population (Dr. Gray)
- Research Flex Plan process and steps to advance development of a Flex Plan, as outlined in the 5-Year Rural Health Strategic Plan (Pat Coady)
- Need to track down all Offers of Land Donation (Martina Coker)
- Talk with Furlong Baldwin re: his experience and affiliation with Johns Hopkins Hospital and his long-term affiliation with Riverside re: donations (Larry LeMond)
- There needs to be research as to how many other critically underserved communities are there that are accessed through the connection of a bridge.
- Development of county package of what we can offer and begin the rough development of a Request for Proposal document (Katie Nunez).

For the next meeting, EMS Director Hollye Carpenter needs to review her material that was distributed and talk about call volumes, the volunteer system and the paid county system. In addition, Pat Coady and Hollye Carpenter still need to report on their research of MEDIVAC (helicopter-based transports) systems and requirements.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, September 12, 2013 @ 4:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Katie Nunez
County Administrator