



HEALTH CARE CENTERS

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT
SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

Health Center (HC) Board Minutes September 23, 2020

The Health Center Board met via Go To Meeting.

Present: Consumer Members: Lee Herrington (Co-Chair), Filippo Chappelle, Celia Lee, Richard Osbourne, Cynthia Guerrero

Community Members: Emily Casarez, Sylvia Barnard, Skip Szymanski (Chair)

Non-Voting Member: Douglas Metz, Health Center Executive Director

Staff: Kendall Johnston, Paola Hurtado, Dana Gamble, Jeanette Gumber, Polly Baldwin, Melissa Gomez, Elvira Briones-Arellano, Michael Camacho-Craft, Ralph Barbosa, Elvia Lopez.

Guests/Speaker: None

Agenda Items

I. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by Chair Szymanski at 12:04pm.

II. Review and Approve Minutes from the August 26, 2020 Meeting

Mr. Chappelle motioned that the minutes from the August Board meeting be approved by the HC Board; Mr. Herrington seconded. No public comments were made.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

III. Roll Call, Sign In and Quorum Established.

Chair Szymanski requested the virtual attendees do a roll call and verified that a quorum was established.

IV. Public Comment: None

V. Old Business: None

VI. New Business: Clinical Laboratory Request for Proposals (RFP)

Dr. Metz informed the Board that the Public Health Department is looking for request for proposals (RFP) from outside agencies to contract with PHD to provide clinical laboratory services. By outsourcing the clinical laboratory, the county would increase customer satisfaction while decreasing expenditures. Phlebotomists from the approved vendor would be available at each of the health centers to collect samples, and then the tests would be processed at that vendor's laboratory. The deadline for the RFP process is approaching soon and Dr. Metz will provide an update at the October Board meeting.

VIII. Standing Reports:

1. August 2020 Monthly Financial Report-Mr. Gamble

Mr. Gamble presented the monthly financial report in Ms. Jacobson's absence. The financial statement for the month of August 2020 shows a month to date deficit of \$706,208. As it is still early into the new fiscal year, many invoices for services and supplies have not been received timely, including physician fees, pharmaceuticals and software maintenance. Additionally, Public Health's data processing costs from the Information Technology department were charged for the entire quarter, resulting in 3 months worth of costs charged in August. While Medicaid and Medicare revenue is below budget, staff are hopeful that this will improve in the coming months with efforts to increase patient volume at the health centers with telephone and virtual visits.

Mr. Chapelle motioned that the Board approve the August monthly financial report; Ms. Lee seconded. No public comments were made.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

[Dr. Prystowsky joined the meeting at 12:25pm]

2. Policy Review Committee

Mr. Herrington motioned that the policies presented in September be approved by the Board, also including policy 96-C-087 which was sent to the review committee after the Board materials were distributed; Ms. Casarez seconded. No public comments were made.

Motion Carried Unanimously

3. Provider Appointments-None this Month.

4. Quality Measures Report-Ms. Gomez

Ms. Gomez began her monthly report with an overview of the improvement measures, which have also been updated with HRSA for the new grant cycle:

Diabetes Control/A1C: Compliance with this measure has decreased and is below the benchmark for the first time in years.

Hypertension: There was a significant drop in compliance with this measure due to the increase in virtual visits during the pandemic. Public Health is working with CenCal to address this with their clients and create an improvement plan.

Depression Screening: Slight increase from the previous month.

Pediatric Depression Screening and Intervention: The benchmark for this measure was confirmed to be correct by Ms. Gomez and the decrease in compliance attributed to some personnel and operational changes, namely that Dr. Dodds retired and the Santa Maria Health Center began their pediatrics program.

Breast Cancer Screenings: This measure has been directly affected by the pandemic, as evident by the low amount of patients being screened. The health center staff have been proactive in calling patients to follow up on their appointments at mammography centers and staff are hopeful to see improvement in the coming months.

Patient Satisfaction (Wait time): The survey question regarding patient wait time from check-in to seeing the provider was modified for virtual visits and resulted in a huge increase with patient satisfaction.

As flu season approaches, the medical practices committee will evaluate vaccination trends. No public comment.

5. Executive Director's Report-Dr. Metz

Dr. Metz's monthly report began with the update that PHD is still waiting on the announcement from Congress regarding additional CARES dollars to FQHCs. Dr. Metz announced that the first report to HRSA for the current Service Area Competition (SAC) grant is due October 9 and is currently being drafted and is nearing completion. The patient volume report shows visit levels down last month, but August also only had 21 clinic days and Dr. Metz is hopeful that the numbers will increase due to the increased efforts of health center staff.

6. COVID 19 Update-Mr. Gamble

Mr. Gamble provided the current status of COVID19 in Santa Barbara County. In late August, the California Department of Public Health released guidance on reopening and introduced a tiered system. SBC has since been in the purple category because of widespread transmission of the virus. However, as confirmed cases have been steadily decreasing, SBC now qualifies to move up to the red tier if the rate of transmission remains low for the next week. Counties in the red tier are able to open schools for in-person instruction, as well as other business sectors. Mr. Gamble reviewed the metrics listed on the PublicHealthSBC.org website, including graphics for case rates and community positivity rates.

VII. Member Announcements: None

VIII. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 1:09pm.