
SITKA COMMISSION ON HEALTH NEEDS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

Regular Commission Meeting Minutes

September 19, 2006

Sitka Community Hospital

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson, Quinn Sharkey, called the meeting to order at 12:05 Noon.

B. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Quinn Sharkey, Willow Griffin, Kelly Ferguson, and Patricia Alexander.

Members Absent: Stephen Warren (excused), Somer Cox, and Cliff Tincher.

Guest: Althea Buckingham.

C. WELCOME MEMBERS AND GUESTS

Quinn welcomed all members and past member/guest Althea Buckingham.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – AUGUST 15, 2006

MOTION: M/S Willow/Alexander moved to approve minutes for the August 15th, 2006 meeting.

ACTION: Minutes were approved.

E. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA - NONE

F. COMMUNICATIONS – NONE

Quinn reported that some have been sent out – see New Business.

G. REPORTS

1. CHAIR

Quinn welcomed Pat back and apologized about the meeting place confusion last meeting. Pat mentioned, for future reference, all HNCS Board meetings held at SEARHC would be in the 4th floor Board Room.

2. VICE CHAIR

3. ASSEMBLY LIAISON - NONE

4. SEARHC UPDATE –

Pat reported there were people from the Federal Government at the hospital today still working on the transfer of the land where patient housing will be built which is the only thing that has been holding up construction. Now, with the approval given today, there will be a push to try and accomplish what can be done even though it is late in the year.

She announced the SEARHC Child Care Program received approval for some playground equipment from the Rasmuson Foundation.

Pat related the road is still not completed. She added Tongass Drive was finished in August but Seward Street still needs another layer of asphalt, however, the ground needs to be 50 degrees.

Pat announced her recruitment of a new safety manager, Mr. Martin Stephens from Bethel, who has three years of hospital experience. He is expected to start the end of October. She related the Security and Safety Department is being reorganized.

Pat reported next week, on October 26th is the Accreditation Governing Board meeting for SEARHC to approve the budget. She explained this is the Board that makes important decisions about future programming, budget, and finance that directs the larger Board. She said they have a lot of new members so it may be interesting to see if the transition is smooth.

Pat reported, on October 20th there would be a Jayco mini survey, a periodic performance review, coming in for a day so all would be working toward that. She stated, from now on, all Jayco surveys would be un-announced so they must always be ready which, she added, is a good thing.

5. SCH UPDATE –

Quinn reported the acuity has been very high and, to his knowledge, the billing has been making money for the hospital for the past five months. He continued it has been a busy summer and a busy beginning of fall. He reported a Strategic Planning Review began this summer with the Board and some outside advisors and the process is continuing. They seem to be looking forward and to a fuller vision for the Hospital and are looking down the road and trying to get more into preventative type programs and maybe offering some more services.

Althea interjected she had received an e-mail, from Moe Chaudry, stating the hospital had received \$66,000 from the tax on cigarettes.

I. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION –

Althea reported she had attended the Care of the Elderly Convention over the weekend and was very impressed with the Gate Keeper program. She expressed hopes the HNCSC could become supportive and involved in that program. Althea felt it was a wonderful way to identify elderly people within the community who need help and also those who fall through the cracks. Volunteers are trained to be cognizant of the needs of the elderly and to report it to agencies that can support them. Willow offered she is on the Board that will be getting more information on this. She stated she is excited about the program and would bring back a report on what she finds out. Pat suggested there are a lot of programs in Sitka available but people do not seem to be aware of them. Kelly suggested a simple, straightforward pamphlet could be passed out with a list of available services. Althea stressed it is hard for elderly persons to ask for help even when they have a list. Pat observed that word of mouth is quite a common way for people to find out about available services. Willow suggested how to get the word out is something to work on. Quinn mentioned that, even though he works in health services, he wasn't aware of some of the social programs out there so the probability the layperson would be aware of such would be pretty low. Quinn stressed that we all agree public education is very important. Althea suggested the LIO book might be a good place for this information.

J. OLD BUSINESS

1) Grant Allocation Process – Quinn recapped that we all agree the grant process provided by the City is pretty sad and agree to the timeline to have something in place for the allocation process in April of 2007. He reflected he had spoken with the City Administrator, John Stein, who expressed he didn't feel the City would be very excited about providing funds for a facilitator for a public meeting. Mr. Stein suggested a third party might be a good way to get funding and suggested the Rasmuson Foundation. Quinn reported he did contact the Rasmuson Foundation and spoke with a gentleman who expressed much interest in getting involved. Rather than bringing in a paid consultant or providing money, which under their rules would be difficult, he suggested if we could convince the Board to be supportive and have the Foundation come in as the third party and as a consultant to look at the system they could help us develop a plan to present to the City. Quinn and Steve tried to contact a member here in Sitka, Rob Allen, but had

trouble contacting him. Instead, Quinn drafted a formal letter and mailed it to the Rasmuson Foundation. He is confident they will get back with him. Quinn said he presented the problem with hopes the Foundation will present a resolution especially since they are experts in this area. He feels the City will be resistant to anything the Commission presents. Since the Rasmuson is the most respected grant authority in the state, he felt it would be hard for the City to argue with their recommendations. Pat brought up that she had spoken to John Stein and he said the amount of money to be dispersed this year was \$8,000.00 but he could see breaking off an amount of about \$2,000.00 for public meetings. Quinn, after speaking with the Rasmuson Foundation, was surprised at how much money it would cost and that it would be more than \$2000.00. Quinn felt we may still need to approach Mr. Stein for some money to help augment the public meeting, or whatever, but his goal is to have the Rasmuson Foundation come in as the facilitator and that would be free. Pat stated one thing she has learned about any outside consultant is that, if you are not absolutely explicit about what you want the end result to be, you are going to get back a whole bag of "gobbily gook" that is not useful to anybody and it will have taken all that time to have nothing at the end. She suggested we might need a subcommittee to lay out in words and graphically what we envision. Quinn commented that if the Foundation comes back and says, "yes", at that point we would have to have our goal laid out. Pat mentioned we are behind on our timeframe and Quinn agreed but stressed it has all been more complicated than he would have thought but it needs to be done right. Pat recommended the pieces we wanted to have input into were the priority targets and placing a percentage on each of criteria. She suggested we should have specific needs. She used the example of the Rasmuson process, used by Juneau; to provide social services was an effort demonstrating significant needs. She presented last years targets established by Juneau which were as follows:

- Children and youth
- Employment and training
- Elderly and/or physically disabled people
- Prevention and treatment of the abuse of alcohol or other drugs
- Affordable housing and homelessness
- Poverty and the working poor

Criteria was as below for successful projects:

- Provides social services addressing significant, demonstrated needs
- Employs an innovative approach with potential for substantive impact
- Includes a well-designed budget and plan for sustainability
- Provides evidence of strong leadership
- Demonstrates commitment to measurable outcomes
- Collaborates and/or cooperates with other agencies in serving targeted populations
- Enhances the cultural competence of service providers and/or fosters the cross cultural understanding of target population
- Fosters civic engagement and/or community volunteerism

She suggested these could be changed to the most important targets for Sitka and the scoring criteria could be changed to what makes sense for Sitka.

Pat expressed she feels if the Rasmuson Foundation gets involved it may take longer and may not move as quickly as we would like to move and we would be looking at the next year rather than 2007 to achieve our goal. She felt anything worth doing is worth doing right and that a public meeting might open a can of worms and it would be nice to have some good strong backing of someone who understands. Quinn is hoping that by the next meeting he might have a firm answer from the Foundation but if we don't we may have to go back to Mr. Stein and ask for more money. Pat felt we need a plan B for a facilitator if the Rasmuson Foundation does not work out. She had a list of names as possible facilitators and they are as follows:

- Jeannie Monk - SEARHC Grants Planning and Strategic Plan in Juneau
- Barbara Sheinberg – Juneau

- Krisanne Rice – Sitka, SEARHC Steps Grant
- Julia Smith - retired but on the City Long Term Planning Commission
- Bob Gorman – Cooperative Extension Service
- Nancy Jo Belier - SEARHC Social Services employee
- Dorothy Shepherd – Sheldon Jackson
- Dennis MacMillan – Foraker Group
- Bob Whitcomb - Sheldon Jackson employee
- Russ Bowman - Coast Guard and SCH
- Bernie Gurule - Academic Principal at Mt. Edgecumbe
- Elisa Sadlier-Hart - SEARHC employee

Pat felt it would be good to have someone who knows the community of Sitka and the programs. She reflected having a facilitator in place, as Plan B is something to think about.

Willow suggested Grace Brooks as a facilitator. She added Grace knows a lot about the program and is very interested and perhaps may even do this for free. Willow will invite her to the next meeting so that we could meet her. She suggested we get the ball rolling and form a subcommittee to formulate a plan. Quinn interjected it would require outside meetings. A subcommittee was formed composed of Willow, Pat and Quinn. Willow also volunteered to bring back some information about how other cities go about getting funding.

2) Public Health Fair

Quinn reported we would wait until Steve returns for a report.

K. NEW BUSINESS -

Willow presented the letter she had drafted to the editor in support of the process of health promotion.

L. NEXT MEETING – OCTOBER 17, 2006

M. ADJOURNMENT -

MOTION: M/S Sharkey/Alexander moved to adjourn the meeting.

ACTION: The meeting was adjourned at 12:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Weaver,
Secretary