

## CLARK COUNTY STRATEGIC PLAN

### HEALTHCARE SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

**SEPTEMBER 16, 2008**

Those in attendance: Margo Green, Chairperson; Dr. Chester Clark, Chairperson; Phyllis Hankins; Conrad Wilson; Jenny Self; Jana Tarpley; Jennifer Vines; Sue Tatum; Gloria Hart; Sherry Hayes; Kelly Cardone; Cindy Jackson

The primary topic of the meeting was the progress on plans for a charitable clinic. Cindy Jackson provided an update and handouts that had been given to local medical professionals. Cindy reported that a lot had been accomplished since our public meeting regarding the charitable clinic. There were many lay people and medical professionals in attendance, but only a few local doctors.

Cindy reported that Dr. Kluck had developed a voucher for people who want to use the services offered through the clinic. Criteria would be established for approval/disapproval of the request at the clinic site. Then clinic staff would make an appointment with one of the local doctors participating in the project and the patient would be able to see the doctor at his/her office. Three volunteer attorneys have been reviewing the proposed clinic procedures and the corresponding legalities. Representatives of the Healthcare Subcommittee recently met with the Clark County Medical Society during their regular meeting at the hospital. The physicians were favorable to the voucher system and supportive of the project. This group included both of the Hospitalists, who indicated that they would participate if they could utilize the office space of the other local physicians.

The plan is to use the voucher system. An appointment calendar will be kept at the Charitable Clinic. Volunteers will drop off and pick up paperwork going between the clinic and the doctors' offices. Clinic staff will track the appointments, statistics, and most importantly will follow-up in terms of education for patients who may need to learn how to manage conditions such as diabetes, high blood pressure, etc. The RN on duty at the clinic can arrange for lab work, as needed. Volunteer nurses, nursing students or those going into the medical field may provide a key role in this educational and

follow-up process since education and attention to a particular condition may result in fewer visits to a doctor or hospitalizations.

Cindy asked for suggestions or recommended changes on the letter to the physicians that she handed out at the first of the meeting. There were no recommendations.

In general discussion, a committee member asked if the Charitable Clinic sites would be expanded to Amity and Gurdon so that people in these areas would not have to travel to Arkadelphia for services. Cindy responded that we can certainly have plans for expansion, once the original clinic is established. A key will be how many volunteers will be available to operate clinics in those areas. Another question had to do with how the Charitable Clinic would be organized. Cindy explained that, based on the use of the voucher system, this would not be a medical clinic but more of an office setting. She said that we still need to identify the flow of office work and how the record keeping will be managed. She will check with the Charitable Clinic in Hot Springs to see how they manage these office duties.

There was another question about the actual site for the clinic/office. Cindy reported that options being considered were at the DHS County Office, the Health Department (although use of this facility presents a liability issue), one of the local churches, the empty Head Start building and the County Court House. Since any physical work done at the site will be limited to nursing care and a pharmacy will not be maintained at the site, the major need will be space for records, teaching and working with patients on how to enroll in various programs, such as those that provide medications at a reduced rate. Cindy is hopeful that the physicians will be able to utilize the samples of medications that they receive at no cost from pharmacy companies for the clinic patients. Four local pharmacists have volunteered to participate in the project.

There was a request that the original list of e-mail addresses for the Healthcare Subcommittee be double checked since some members are not receiving notices of the meetings. The Baptist Medical Center e-mail addresses have changed since the committee developed the list. Margo asked everyone present to sign a sheet and give their current e-mail address.

Another question was asked regarding whether or not the Charitable Clinic would seek private non-profit status. Cindy responded that we are still in the

phase of establishing interest in the project. If we don't have that, there is not a need to pursue this status. However, this would be needed to pursue major fund raising efforts. The establishment of private non-profit would involve writing by-laws, applying for 501©(3) status, etc. Elaine Kneebone, a local attorney who has been volunteering to research legal questions and opinions, will help with this, as needed.

Dr. Clark told the group that there is a foundation in Hot Springs that gives "start-up grants" to organizations like the clinic. He said that there are also four local foundations that may support this type of effort.

The next meeting was scheduled for November 25, 2008 at 5:30 p.m. at the Greater Pleasant Hill Baptist Church. The primary topic for the next meeting will be the action step regarding mental health services in Clark County.