

MEETING MINUTES OF THE COOK COUNTY HEALTH CARE TASK FORCE

May 3, 2016

118 N. Clark St., 4th Floor Conference Room

I. Call to Order and Introductions

Attendees: Commissioner Chuy Garcia, Sandy Kraiss, John Keller, Diane Limas, Andrea Munoz, Dr. Linda Rae Murray, Fash Khan, Lilian Jimenez, Andrea Kovach

II. Update on Current Financial Status of CCHHS

A representative from CCHHS was not present. Committee discussed that it is reasonable to expect the County to continue to provide tax support for CCHHS. Committee discussed the continuing gap in uncompensated care as a result of the decrease subsidy Cook County provides to the County health system. CCHHS has consolidated, reduced services and laid-off employees in the last few months.

Committee discussed the fact that policies that sound good don't always work efficiently when implemented. For example, billing patients is not a bad idea. However CCHHS did not inform patients of the change. Also CCHHS should not be taking indigent patients to collection.

III. Update on Managed Care

Brief discussion on County Care and the fact that most of the money CCHHS collects goes out of the system to compensate providers. The County could do more to provide the services in house and keep patients at County.

IV. Identify Financial Principles Aligned with Mission

Discussion included the following principals; health care is a basic right, the need for one tier of care. At minimum CCHHS should comply with ACA standards. Currently CCHHS charges uninsured individuals with co-pays for flu shots while insured individuals and those covered by Medicaid and Medicaid expansion so not see co-pays. The pharmacy is also a problem because it isn't covered by many of the plans. CCHHS needs to address the issue and make sure either 1) people go home with medications or 2) the pharmacy transfers the prescription to a pharmacy that accepts the persons insurance.

V. Other Sources of Financial Support

Discussion about the challenge presented by creating a new program that would potentially cost taxpayer dollars when the County has decreased the subsidy to CCHHS.

Committee members brought up the need to research the number of uninsured and under insured in Cook County to determine cost-analysis.

Members raised the need to research Care Link and Charity Care. Specifically we need data on numbers served, dollar amount of uncompensated care. Members raised that we need to determine the cost of getting uninsured into the system. Questions also arose about the "per member, per month rate" quoted in HC3 handout.

Some members raised the need to highlight cost savings. Other members pointed out that projecting cost savings in the short-term is difficult if not impossible. Most cost-savings are long-term.

Lastly the committee discussed that we need a map of current resources available to the uninsured: FQHC's, free & low cost clinics, government resources.

III. Public Registered Speakers

One public registered speakers: George Blackmore