

RHCC Report 4/21/11
Kathy Moon, FNP-BC

Old business:

Apple-a-day fundraiser stickers are done, look good (no samples today). Will be liberally given to donators.

Planning underway for next Rural Health conference, held in Bend 9/22- Weds-Fri. Fundraising dinner will be held on Thursday night. Looking at ways to market to the local community for support and involvement. Discussed contacting apple providers for corporate sponsorship.

Legislative Update: Bob Duehmig and Scott Ekbland

HB 2377 – modifies definition of Type B hospital for Medicaid reimbursement. ORH opposes. Referred to health care committee. Process for determining 5 year average operating margin to be determined, not yet defined, no consensus between OHA and hospital CEO's.

HB 2397A – loan forgiveness program for primary care practitioners within Office of Rural Health. Amended to include other practitioners, not just OHSU rural scholars. OHSU does not like the idea of administering loans to other than OHSU students. Scott feels that ORH can mediate that with OHSU. The student must declare intent to practice in rural Oregon community. Referred to ways and means.

HB2400A – Funds loan repayment program through Office of Rural Health for Primary Care Services Programs. In ways and means committee.

HB3580 – MTU training funding. Another hearing was held earlier, with DHS testifying with a different plan, it looks like this bill has been referred to ways and means committee. ORH was not advised of the earlier hearing despite their support of MTU training.

SB0239 – Seeks to change reimbursement for both type A and B hospitals. Again, no criteria determined for how to determine classification of status. Public hearing.

SB0608 – would continue malpractice insurance subsidies. Has lasted 7 years to date. Funding runs out at the end of this year. Public hearing.

HB2366A – directs OHA to develop recruiting programs for medical students. Not clearly defined. Does not include NPs. Not likely to proceed.

HB2391 – provides resources for AHEC locums program. Moved to ways and means.

HB2401 – directs AHEC to develop family practice residency program. Oregon has too few slots. Did not make it out of committee due to costs.

HB3523A – grants prescribing privileges to psychologists who receive specialized certification. Controversial, opposed by OMA.

SB0213 – EMS to assess if patient should be referred to non-emergency service. Likely not proceeding. Oppose.

SB099 – Establishes Health Insurance Exchange. Work session held. Some opposition to this because the “teeth” of the bill were removed. The board cannot direct health plans standards, cannot negotiate premium costs to get best value. Sort of negates the purpose of it. Plans outside of exchange can cherry-pick patients and leaves sicker patients to the exchange. Needs to have fees across the board to all insurers in and out of the exchange.

Language changed allowing insurers, lawyers, etc. to sit on the board. Opposed by Oregon Primary Care Assn.

SB210 – provides enhanced reimbursement for primary care Medicaid providers.

Supported by Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons.

SB0227 – authorized dental assistants to provide enhanced services. Bill is dead.

SB0972 – essentially a sales tax to support healthcare. May not pass this year, but lots of interest and may pass in the future. Would expand health care to all Oregonians.

Staff reports:

Numerous hires from Prineville area, due in part to Rimrock Health Alliance activity. Conference planning ongoing. Bob Duehmig working on two grants. Training and supervising new grant writer Shellye Grant. Troy Soenen working on community benefit reporting. Justin Valley working with an intern to write Rural Health Clinic report. Emerson Ong continues to crank out needed data. Completed 2011 unmet healthcare need report, helps ORH to determine where resources can best be used. Eric Jordan worked on grants, design of the Apple A Day sticker. Linda Clark manages loan repayment program.

Troy Soenen: ACA and health care integration.

Presented on the Affordable Care Act requirements, Accountable Care Organizations, patient-centered medical homes, mental health integration in the proposed system.

Member Reports:

Ted Molinari – Consumer

Papers in Wheeler County ran a story about 2 senior medical students rotating in Fossil. Debbie Boettner, PA honored by American Red Cross for her work. One of her projects, the Greatest Loser, boasts over 2,000 pounds lost in her county among participants.

Kevin Miller, DO – OP&S

Diabetes Academic Roundtable May 6-7 in Portland at Embassy Suites. David Walls invites all to Grand Opening at COMP in Lebanon, July 30th. Governor invited. 100 students chosen for first DO class. 60% of them from northwest.

Susan Forrester – Consumer

Visited Alsea, the clinic is struggling and not able to consider dental hygienist. Traveling hygienists provide care in some rural clinics around the state. Will ask some contacts in Bend area about corporate sponsorship for Apple a Day.

Wayne Endersby – Oregon EMT Assn

Went with a medical team to Honduras in January. In 6 ½ days the team served over 2,000 people. Their dentist pulled 109 teeth in less than three days. One appreciates health care here compared to Honduras. They have public and private hospitals. In public hospital, your family provides the bulk of your care, administering your meds, dressing changes, etc. No 911 system. One ambulance in a major city. If you have a car accident, you're taken by private vehicle for help.

Dan Cutter – Consumer Yachats

Recent Tsunami made clear where strengths and weaknesses were in their communication and response system. Has submitted a draft letter to league of Cities regarding zoning of health care facilities to his city planner for comment before sending it on.

Dr. Bruce Carlson – Oregon Medical Association

Discussed the potential effect of out-of-state ACO's on his health care area. Condon clinic hired 2 new PA's. Neither X-ray-trained. In Hermiston, one surgeon retired, have two now. OB-GYN has closed her practice, down to one in a community of 15K with 25K in surrounding areas. Hospitals using locums for now on 3 month rotations. His clinic was busy with lots of respiratory infections and seasonal illnesses. May be hiring for NPs, on one week, off one. North Lake clinic has 2 providers, a PA recently left. Looking at telemedicine options, has fiberoptic line now.

Kathy Moon, FNP-BC – ONA

HB 3028 Mental Health Reimbursement Parity has died for this session, although House Health Care Committee Co-Chair Jim Thompson said he'll bring it back next session if the insurers don't correct it.

SB 858 Independent Practice NP Reimbursement Parity was taken out of work session yesterday by unanimous committee vote to the Senate Floor. This bill requires insurers to reimburse Nurse Practitioners in solo practice, or in clinics where they manage their own patients, the same rate they reimburse physicians, when NPs are providing the same services. This is a huge step towards payment parity for advanced practice nurses. NPO is asking NP's statewide to contact their senators.

SB 608 Rural Malpractice Subsidies is scheduled to move to the budget committee, more to come.

HB 3212 Extending NP Workers' Compensation Timelines is dead, Jack is working on an amendment to another bill.

I was invited to participate in the NPO legislative committee, and have accepted request to serve as Chair.

I'll be participating in a conference call 4/26 with Oregon Health Authority regarding Patient-Centered Primary Care Home payment plan.

Reedsport: Had a meeting at LUH with GOBHI. They're looking into providing LUH ER with some type of telepsych consultation so we can provide acute mental health care locally. That's a big step. Doug Co. has now hired a new counselor for Reedsport, an adult skills trainer, 2 child skills trainers, and a counselor for children, all to serve in Reedsport. For those with CareOregon, there will be some resources. However, we still have no local psychiatry, counseling for privately insured or uninsured. Bay Area Hospital is, I believe, still operating with locums at their inpatient unit.

I'll be giving a talk to our Rotary in June about obesity in our community, with an eye toward some type of community program aimed at weight reduction. Looking for partners in the community to work together, similar to the program in Fossil.

DFHC will have an EHR within 2 years! I've asked to be a superuser.

We also had tsunami mis-happenings! Communication problems, and apparently some have unrealistic expectations for shelter amenities. I wrote an op-ed about that, to remind our folks they are responsible for their own safety, and to get informed, make a plan, make a kit and get trained. I've been speaking to local groups about disaster preparedness.

Andrea Fletcher – Consumer Eastern Oregon

Doing some planning and evaluating community needs and resources for strategic planning. Looking at funding for providing care to illegal residents in community. Some residents in her county travel to Umatilla County where there is a loss of OB providers. The grant allows patients to receive prenatal care from a primary care provider, then see delivering OB. Dr. Carlson comments that this was an issue about 30 years ago, and insurance wanted to charge providers full price for OB as if they were delivering, just for doing PN care.

David Jones, PA – Oregon Society of Physician Assistants

Discussed legislation about PA supervision put out by ZOOM clinics in Portland area, an urgent care clinic chain. Australia looking to initiate Physician Assistance program, he's sent an email to the parliament there. Took leave for health care problems, and is being retired by one of the clinics where he works due to lack of money for his on-call position there.

New Business:

Scott points out that under new Governor, consumer members can only serve 2 terms.

Adjourned.