

The Health Council of Marin

Minutes of Regular Meeting: Tuesday, June 26, 2018

Marin General Hospital

250 Bon Air Road, Larkspur Room

Greenbrae, CA 94904

Members Present: Barbara Wientjes (President), Constance Barker, Allan Blau, Bridget Gleason, Jennifer Rienks, Sandy Ross, Claudia Schimmer

Members Absent: Derice Seid Tao (excused)

Guests: Loretta Rogers (Secretary)

Handouts: *Agenda*

1. **Call to Order:** At 7:07 pm, President Wientjes called the meeting to order.
2. **Welcome and Introductions:** President Barbara Wientjes welcomed all attendees and all attendees introduced themselves.
3. **Public Comment Time:** None.
4. **Approval of the minutes of the May 22, 2018, meeting:** Alan Blau moved that the minutes of the May 22, 2018, meeting be approved. Claudia Schimmer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
5. **Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) for Home Health Care Workers and HR620 ADA Education and Reform Act of 2017:** Connie Barker reminded the members that EVV was added to the 21st Century CURES Act of 2016 as a way of making the new law “revenue neutral.” It was thought that by implementing EVV, fraud would be eliminated, and with the resulting savings the new expense of the CURES Act would be off-set. Since the last meeting, she reported good news. California is currently analyzing the impact of EVV only on personal care services, not on home health service agencies (scheduled to implement in 2023). At the state level, representatives of the union for personal caregivers (United Domestic Workers of America) have been meeting with the state budget committee and got lots of good language inserted into the budget document. This was the result:
 1. Funds have been set aside provisionally for implementation of EVV on schedule or for payment of federal penalty, should an extension not be granted.
 2. EVV will be a collaborative endeavor.
 3. EVV shall not infringe on the Olmstead right of patients to be cared for in the least institutional way possible.
 4. EVV shall not use GPS tracking but rather use existing telephonic or computer technology.
 5. California’s implementation shall use the maximum flexibility allowed by the federal government.
 6. There is provisional permission from the federal government to just have check-off of services performed.
 7. Location of services will be limited to (1) home; (2) community; (3) both.
 8. Regarding time, the only requirement will be to enter the time of the first service, the time of the last service of the day and then the total number of hours.
 9. No violations will be generated.
 10. Social workers will do individual assessment. There will be no automated assessments.
 11. Training on using the program will be provided.

She then explained the thinking behind the sponsors of this program on the federal level. Basically, the purpose was to eliminate fraud and thereby save money, the savings covering the cost of increased spending. The original sponsors had thought the bill targeted only the home care agencies for fraud and not the personal care providers. In any case, the result is that the entire country will get an extra year to prepare for roll-out. Fifty people worked on getting this done.

The next step is to talk about privacy concerns and problems with automation. Connie Barker and her colleagues are concerned that donors to congressmen who are in the tech field will push for more automation as they will benefit financially from this decision.

Connie Barker stated that she would contract Virginia Eubanks, author of “Automating Integrity” as a speaker at a future HCM meeting

Sandy Ross asked if the HCM should take any action now in support of these efforts. Connie Barker said that now is not the right time. It would be good to have a community education event on this subject.

Sandy Ross proposed that the HCM at least advise the Board of Supervisors that the HCM is investigating this issue. Sandy Ross moved that the following communication be sent to the Board of Supervisors: “The Health Council of Marin has been informing itself regarding Electronic Visit Verification for Home Healthcare Workers, the HR 620 ADA Education and Reform Act of 2016 and related items. The Health Council plans to bring these topics to the attention of the Board of Supervisors and the Department of Health & Human Services at the appropriate time, using Constance Barker as spokesperson.” Jennifer Rienks seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. **Slate of Officers for FY 2018-19.** Sandy Ross reported that the Nominating Committee has nominated the following members as officers for the FY 2018-19: Barbara Wientjes for President; Sandy Ross for Vice President / Parliamentarian; Claudia Schimmer for Secretary. This motion passed unanimously.
7. **Meeting dates/times – discussion and possible vote to change the meeting night to Wednesday or another day of the week:** Sandy Ross reported that Ginger Souders-Mason would like to become a member of the HCM, but unfortunately, she has a standing commitment for Tuesday nights. Ginger is wondering if the HCM meetings could be moved to Wednesday nights. Loretta Rogers stated that she has a standing commitment for Wednesday nights. The only week nights she has open for a meeting are Tuesdays and Fridays. Alternatively, the HCM could ask HHS for a replacement for Loretta Rogers who could attend Wednesday night meetings. This suggestion was rejected. For now, the HCM meetings will remain on the 4th Tuesday of every month, except August and December.
8. **Presentation:** None.
9. **Topics for meetings for the rest of the year:** President Wientjes asked members for topics for the remaining meetings in 2018, Jennifer Rienks stated that Reba Meigs will present at the July meeting on food insecurity. There is no meeting in August. The topic for the September meeting will be suicide prevention which Jennifer Rienks will arrange. Other possible topics are: Community mental health, rape examinations, Vial of Life, Alzheimer’s Disease, fire prevention.
10. **Updates:** None.
11. **President’s Report:** None.
12. **HCM member reports and announcements:** President Wientjes announced that there would be a presentation on 5G in San Anselmo on July 19, 2018. She will forward further information to the HCM members via email.

13. **Adjournment:** Alan Blau moved that the meeting adjourn. Claudia Schimmer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:54 pm. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, July 24, 2018, from 7:00 to 9:00 pm at Marin General Hospital in the Larkspur Room