

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

Joint Study Session with CUPHD Board of Health Tuesday, July 27, 2010

Call to Order

The Champaign County Board of Health (BOH) held a joint study session with the Champaign-Urbana Public Health District Board (CUPHD) on July 27, 2010 in the Lyle Shields Meeting Room at the Brookens Administrative Center, 1776 East Washington, Urbana. The BOH portion of the study session was called to order at 6:06 p.m. by Board President Bobbi Scholze. The CUPHD Board lacked sufficient members to constitute a quorum and would be called to order after a second member arrived.

Roll Call

BOH members present at the time of roll call were Stan James, John Peterson, Cheryl Ramirez, Bobbi Scholze, and Betty Segal. The staff member present was Kat Bork (Board of Health Administrative Assistant). Carol Elliott was the only CUPHD Board member present.

The absent BOH members were Brenda Anderson, Prashanth Gowda, Mark Huls, and David Thies. Thies and Gowda had previously informed the President they would be unable to attend the meeting and their absences were excused. The absent CUPHD Board members were C. Pius Weibel and Pam Borowski. Weibel arrived later in the study session.

Also present were Deb Busey (County Administrator), Lynn Canfield (Associate Director of Developmental Disabilities), Candi Crause (CUPHD Infectious Disease Prevention & Management Director), Alicia Ekhoﬀ (CUPHD Dental Program Coordinator), Carol Elliott (CUPHD Board Chair), Deb Fruitt (CUPHD Wellness & Health Promotion Director), Fred Grosser (CUPHD's legal counsel), Nancy Greenwalt (Smile Healthy Executive Director), Lyn Jones (United Way of Champaign County President & CEO), Julie Pryde (CUPHD Administrator), Jim Roberts (CUPHD Environmental Health Director), Awais Vaid (CUPHD Epidemiologist), and Andrea Wallace (CUPHD Finance Director).

Approval of Agenda/Addendum

MOTION by James to approve the agenda; seconded by Segal. **Motion carried with unanimous support.**

Discussion of County-Wide Dental Services

Pryde distributed information on the dental clinic provided by CUPHD. Alicia Ekhoﬀ (CUPHD Dental Program Coordinator) described how CUPHD has built a strong, stable program over the last three years to provide a true dental home for the underserved children in Champaign and Urbana. CUPHD has two dental clinics located at main Kenyon Road facility and at the Urbana School Health Center in Urbana High School. The Kenyon Road clinic has 5

clinical rooms, 3 of which of fully functional and 2 that are not completed, and operates 5 days a week. The Urbana Center has 2 clinical rooms that operate 4 days a week. These clinics and mobile school clinic saw 7,737 dental visits from July 2009 thru June 2010. The total expenditures starting in FY2010 were \$726,186 with aggressive Medicaid billing bringing in almost \$550,000 in reimbursement. The program also received almost \$4,000 in grants and over \$6,000 in fees for services, such as co-pays. Medicaid reimbursement supports 75% of CUPHD's total costs to operate the dental clinics. The CUPHD dental program includes 23 mobile visits to Champaign-Urbana public schools for preventative dental care. CUPHD has partnered with Smile Healthy and the Illinois Dental Society on Give Kids a Smile Day. CUPHD distributes over 2,500 infant oral care packets through Provena and Carle Hospitals.

Pryde stated the dental program expansion described in the handout has not been through the CUPHD Board yet and she does not know if it is a viable option. She merely asked the CUPHD dental team to put together some numbers regarding how the program could be opened up to county residents. Ekhoﬀ explained the idea would be to cautiously open up the two non-finished dental rooms to serve County children with an additional dental team. The rough estimate for an expanded program included \$13,728 in equipment and instrument purchases, \$19,974 in disposable supplies, and \$98,349 in annual costs for staffing to add 1 dental team to work 3 days per week. The total cost is estimated at \$132,050. She further estimated CUPHD could recoup \$99,830 of that amount via Medicaid reimbursement for county children, leaving \$32,220 in non-reimbursable expenses, which CUPHD would request the BOH fund.

Weibel entered the study session at 6:13 p.m.

Ekhoﬀ said the greatest challenge is the lack of specialists who will see children with extensive dental care needs. Very few specialists accept Medicaid reimbursement and the majority are located in the Chicago area.

Elliott called the CUPHD portion of the study session to order at 6:15 p.m. and confirmed Elliott and Weibel were the CUPHD Board members present with Borowski being absent.

Ekhoﬀ remarked children requiring hospital dental care with multiple procedures are reimbursed by Medicaid, but it is difficult for clients to travel towards Chicago to see the specialists. Extensive care can require overnight stays for parents. Parents frequently do not seek the care because it is not locally available.

James asked for the ages of children seen at the clinic. Pryde answered they see ages 1 to 18. Ekhoﬀ said the Urbana clinic is only open to Urbana school students, which begins at age 3. James questioned if there were dentists and professionals interested in providing services as part of the dental team. Ekhoﬀ nodded affirmatively. James asked what would occur if all the projected Medicaid reimbursement was not received. Pryde explained the level of reimbursement is noticed as the program progresses and services are reduced accordingly. The BOH would have to decide how much service they are willing to offer. James noted transportation is an issue for some rural residents and traveling to the Kenyon Road location in Champaign could be a problem. Pryde acknowledged there is no easy answer. James stated it would be nice to have the clinic at another location like Rantoul if it is supported by BOH

dollars. Pryde remarked this estimate did not envision building out to another location. It would upgrade two rooms and add to the volume to the existing CUPHD model. Ekhoﬀ has heard from the Maternal & Child Health Division that county residents are already traveling to the Kenyon Road facility for other services, including families with young children, so they could receive dental services there.

Elliott inquired if the additional dental team would only see county residents or if they would see any patient. Pryde confirmed the team would technically be restricted to seeing county children. CUPHD is meeting the need in the urban area with its existing dental teams. Elliott asked if the clinic for county residents could be moved to a different location without causing problems. Pryde replied that moving to a different location would change the estimated budget because of set-up and renting office space. CUPHD would request \$13,727 from the BOH to cover start-up costs with the hypothetical program expansion.

Scholze asked if CUPHD saw any other challenges for dental services for children. Ekhoﬀ said a challenge is that children are not being taken to the dentist unless it is required by the state as part of the school physical. Many children are not getting dental care unless it is provided for them in the schools. Scholze asked if that deficiency was due to a lack of parental education. Ekhoﬀ confirmed it was. Pryde said there is almost zero correlation between knowledge and behavior.

Lyn Jones (United Way of Champaign County President & CEO) explained the United Way has been involved in a planning committee looking at unmet adult dental needs in Champaign County for the last 18 months. This has been a collaborative effort with Carle Hospital, Provena Hospital, Frances Nelson Health Center, Land of Lincoln Legal Assistance, Smile Healthy, and Dr. Wall from Public Health. They have fairly good pro forma with costs to set up clinic space at Frances Nelson. The pro forma would require the clinic see a mix of adults and children from the entire county, including Champaign and Urbana. The physical facility will have to be built out and they have applied for some grants. There is no set date when services may be available. Frances Nelson's board has not signed off on this proposal. The people receiving dental services would have to be Medicaid eligible. Elliott inquired about whether people who receive township assistance would qualify for services because the township pays at the Medicaid rate. Jones thought those people would be eligible. Peterson asked for more detail. Jones stated they are looking to have 1 full-time dentist and staff. Greenwalt added they were talking about providing 7,400 dental visits per year, beginning with the second year. Jones said they were waiting of grants and other issues before moving forward. They plan to apply a sliding fees scale for services not covered by Medicaid.

Greenwalt described how Smile Healthy provides dental care in private dental offices, mobile clinics, goes to grade schools, and provides services via the Head Start clinic in Rantoul. The Head Start clinic has been moved to Savoy for the summer due to construction on the Rantoul facility. Services are provided for income eligible children who live inside Champaign County, but outside Champaign-Urbana. The Head Start program provides dental services for the entire family of enrolled children, including adults. The BOH funds comprehensive care, which includes multiple visits with six-month hygiene checks through full sedation oral surgery. This program is different than the other programs depicted. Head Start also covers the costs of

specialty care. Smile Healthy counts unique patients, not patient visits. The Smile Healthy mobile clinic has started seeing adults at Salt & Light, the St. Patrick's food pantry, Christen Health Center, Prairie Center, and Frances Nelson Health Center. Smile Healthy visits Frances Nelson twice a month and half of the patients they see there are adults. Their dental health education program is in the Head Start classrooms once a month and they go anywhere else they are invited. Greenwalt noted that in 2009 Provena Hospital had about 1,000 dental complaints report to the emergency room. Carle Hospital has indicated it had 2,059 ER patients with dental complaints. There are many more low income people receiving dental care than there was 3-5 years. There are almost 28,000 people on Medicaid in Champaign County, so the demand is huge. Scholze praised Smile Healthy's efforts to remind patients about dental appointments.

Peterson asked what kind of coordination and funding is envisioned for the different programs described. He cited the BOH's limited resources and the need to be effective. Jones stated the United Way, Carle, and Provena have made financial commitments for the Frances Nelson clinic. They are looking at ways to fund the operating deficits. A couple of private dentists are working with the committee. Greenwalt said they are trying to coordinate with CUPHD's dental clinic for ongoing services. The committee has been meeting every 2 weeks for months to try to establish a dental clinic at Frances Nelson. Peterson asked about the future for Smile Healthy if Frances Nelson can install an effective model for a dental clinic funded with Medicaid reimbursement. Greenwalt said Smile Healthy is listed as managing the Frances Nelson Dental Clinic in the pro forma proposal and grant applications. She dreams of expanding the Head Start and mobile clinics. In Greenwalt's opinion, Smile Healthy is unique in providing specialty care and education. Peterson expressed that the BOH has limited resources and funding a model like CUPHD has cost less to the BOH than Smile Healthy. Greenwalt has understood every year that the BOH wanted a competitive proposal to be efficient with property tax dollars. She appealed for the BOH to support the dental program at schools because the BOH is providing a service to schools that are required by the State of Illinois to provide dental exams.

Ramirez asked if people who receive Medicaid choose their providers. Pryde said they could, but right now only CUPHD offers those services. If other providers would accept Medicaid, then people on Medicaid could choose. CUPHD insists children sign up for Medicaid. Ramirez inquired how the Medicaid expansion via the national health reform will affect dental services and whether the Medicaid related bill for dental services recently passed helped local agencies. Pryde said it helped and confirmed CUPHD has been paid like clockwork by Medicaid for dental billing. She heard for years that Medicaid billing was late, but Medicaid reimbursement is one of the few things being paid on time. Peterson added that Medicaid seems to be paying doctors and dentists, but is not paying hospitals or social services. In response to Ramirez's question about the different services being offered, Greenwalt explained there are not a lot of choices right now, especially for adults. Smile Healthy is working to coordinate with the Christen Health Center and the Parkland Hygiene Program. Concerning the Medicaid expansion, she has heard the reimbursement for dental work is not much. Dentists would still have to enroll in Medicaid to receive the reimbursement. Ramirez noted behavioral health practitioners have been advised to hook up with FQHCs and integrate with primary care. Greenwalt has local funders who push to have dental services integrated with medical services.

Elliott commented that adults are not eligible for Medicaid unless they have dependent children or are disabled. Townships are supposed to provide coverage for adults at the Medicaid rate and she suggested more involvement by the townships in the plans. Greenwalt asked if townships would reimburse dentists at the Medicaid rate even if the adults not enrolled in Medicaid. Elliott said her township covers a little less than the Medicaid amount, but it is still prescribed by the Department of Public Aid. The different programs have different categories. Medicaid has broader coverage for families. Townships pay for fillings, extractions, and dentures if providers receive township public aid. The problem is dental providers do not want to accept the township's payment. Discussion continued over township public aid and reimbursement.

After hearing about the various existing programs funded by taxing entities, James asked why the various agencies do not pool their resources together to centralize the services to eliminate the overlapping costs. He saw a large portion of money going to personnel that could be used for services with some changes. Elliott acknowledged different entities have different philosophies.

Scholze thanked all the presenters and concluded the dental services portion of the study session.

Discussion of I-Plan Project

Pryde informed the BOH that the first meeting for the I-PLAN would occur tomorrow at the library from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Busey confirmed she would be in attendance.

Vaid explained the I-PLAN is an assessment of needs for the community. Certified health departments are required to complete an I-PLAN every 5 years to maintain their certification. The last assessment team involved 33 individuals from the community. CUPHD is using the MAPP (Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships) model for the I-PLAN. It is a time-consuming model that requires community input. The same model was used in 2006. Vaid described the MAPP model's features. CUPHD has received and analyzed more than 900 completed surveys so far. Vaid stated CUPHD will use the statistical data collected to select 3 priority issues to address in the next 5 years. CUPHD identified 10 priority issues in 2006 and learned this approach was too broad. No one took any responsibility or leadership after the last I-PLAN and so the identified issues did not go anywhere. CUPHD learned to have fewer priorities from the 2006 I-PLAN.

Scholze asked if more partnerships have been built in the last several years. Vaid answered yes. Pryde added the EMA and flu preparation has helped build many more partnerships than existed 5 years ago. Scholze inquired about the next step in the I-PLAN. Pryde said there would be a meeting tomorrow and another in September. Vaid reiterated that the preliminary findings from the surveys will be presented tomorrow. Pryde said CUPHD will evaluate if more county data is needed to ensure a representative sample. She was very pleased about the 900 surveys because last time CUPHD paid a consultant \$10,000 to have 200 surveys completed.

James pointed out that 900 surveys is not a large sample compared to the entire population within Champaign County. He has not heard anything about the I-PLAN survey except at BOH meetings and it was likely the general public has also not heard about it. Pryde said CUPHD just needs to get a statistically significant sample. The general public will likely not hear about the I-PLAN.

Scholze thanked CUPHD for presenting information on the I-PLAN.

Public Participation

There was no public participation.

Adjournment

The study session was adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kat Bork
Board of Health Administrative Assistant

Secy's note: The minutes reflect the order of the agenda and may not necessarily reflect the order of business conducted at the meeting.