

COLORADO RURAL HEALTH CARE GRANT COUNCIL

MINUTES

JANUARY 25, 2010

These minutes are a summary of the proceedings and motions of the Colorado Rural Health Care Grant Council. Attachments referenced in the minutes are available through the Colorado Rural Health Center at info@coruralhealth.org or 303-832-7493.

Call to Order/Introductions

The January 25, 2010 Colorado Rural Health Care Grant Council (“the Council”) meeting was called to order at 11:10am at The Colorado Health Foundation, 501 South Cherry Street, Denver, Colorado by Dr. Ned Calonge - Co-Chair.

Members Present:

Jay Brooke – by teleconference (High Plains Community Health Center, Lamar); Dr. Ned Calonge - Co-Chair (CDPHE, Denver); Lydia DeLaRosa (Latin Anglo Alliance Foundation, Grand Junction); Denise Denton (Rural Health Consultant, Denver); Lorez Meinhold (Governor’s Office, Denver); Khanh Nguyen (The Colorado Health Foundation, Denver); Kathleen Rogers (San Luis Valley Regional Medical Center, Alamosa); Dr. Jacqueline Stiff - Co-Chair (United Healthcare, Denver); Chris Underwood – by teleconference (Department of Health Care Policy & Finance, Denver).

Staff Present:

Kent O’Connor (Colorado Rural Health Center, Denver).

Members Absent:

Andrea Kawulok (Berthoud); Marcy Morrison (Insurance Commissioner, Denver); Charles Unseld (Dept. of Local Affairs, Denver).

Approval of Minutes from December 7 Meeting

A **MOTION** was made by Ms. Rogers and seconded by Ms. Denton to approve the December 7, 2009 minutes.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Program-Related Issues

Grant Reports

Ms. O’Connor presented a revised color-coded map of Projects Funded in 2008 and 2009 showing counties in which funding has been provided, as well as those counties that have not received funding to date. A general discussion ensued as to the value of the map including county names in which no funding has been provided. It was agreed that Ms. O’Connor will revise the map to include only those counties that are eligible to receive funding. Ms. Denton noted that there are portions of Metro Denver counties that are eligible for funding. The revised map will be presented at the February 22 Council meeting, which will assist in better outreach targeting to encourage applications in the 2010 grant cycle.

2010 Timeline

Ms. O'Connor presented the 2010 Timeline to discuss the May 20 date for the All-Day Council Review. This date is in conflict with Dr. Calonge's schedule, so an availability poll was conducted by Ms. O'Connor prior to this meeting. Based on the majority, the Review will be moved to May 18 and Ms. O'Connor will present the final Timeline at the next meeting.

2010 Grant Cycle

Identify Additional Reviewers: Ms. Denton advised that Ms. O'Connor will soon contact the reviewers that participated last year to ascertain their interest and availability to review applications this grant cycle. Ms. Denton advised she will forward contact information for interested medical students to Ms. O'Connor to contact.

Ms. Meinhold inquired as to the process of application review, to which Ms. Denton offered that a preliminary review will take place between March 15-19. Ms. Meinhold volunteered to participate and a sub-committee consisting of Ms. Denton, Ms. Meinhold and Ms. O'Connor will conduct this review.

Letters of Intent - Summary

Ms. O'Connor presented a summary of LOIs received to date, with a comparison of last year. Approximately 90 LOIs have been received so far, compared with 87 in 2009. Council agreed that the LOI deadline will be extended to February 19 and Ms. O'Connor will make this change in the Program literature and on the CRHC website.

Letters of Intent - Eligibility

- Gunnison County Department of Health and Human Services
Ms. O'Connor presented their Letter of Intent for a request to fund a voucher program. Council agreed that this is not a provision of direct services, but is a means to pay for services. As a result, Ms. O'Connor will inform them that this program would not be eligible for funding.
- Grand County Rural Health Network, Inc.
Ms. O'Connor reviewed their LOI to purchase health information technology to facilitate communication and coordination with points-of-entry, healthcare providers and low income, uninsured patients. Council agreed that, as a network, they would not qualify under the organizational eligibility; however, their providers could apply and the network could house the project. Ms. O'Connor will inform them of Council's decision.
- Yuma District Hospital and Clinics
Ms. O'Connor presented their LOI to apply for funding for two of their sites. After discussion, Council agreed that multiple applications from one organization would be acceptable, "If an eligible rural organization has separate satellite sites that serve distinctly different communities, service areas, and populations, they can submit multiple applications. The proposed project for each application must serve the people in the service area in which the applicant is located."
- Centennial Mental Health Center
Ms. O'Connor presented their LOI for Council's decision as to eligibility, as this organization received an extension of time until August 31, 2010 to complete their project funded in 2008. Council agreed that

they are eligible to apply this grant cycle and Ms. O'Connor will inform Centennial Mental Health Center of the decision.

- Mountain Medical Center

Their LOI was discussed, as Ms. O'Connor reported that they have yet to submit their 2008 Final Report, although they have received numerous reminders from Ms. O'Connor. Council agreed they will not be eligible to apply in this grant cycle, but can in future cycles beginning in 2011. Ms. O'Connor will inform Mountain Medical Center of Council's decision.

Additional discussions as to project eligibility took place addressing supplies and renovations. For supplies to be eligible, it was agreed that the key is sustainability, i.e., items that are used more than once (oral thermometers). Disposable items (sheaves) will not be eligible. In regards to renovations, Council agreed the purpose of the grant program is to support the access to or delivery of primary care services. Renovations that strictly improve the appearance of a facility (new carpet, exterior paint) will not be eligible.

As a result of these discussions, Council agreed that the "Frequently Asked Questions" on the CRHC website would be clarified and additional situations would be addressed. The following Council members volunteered to draft the information: Dr. Calonge, Dr. Stiff, Ms. Denton and Ms. Meinhold. Once finalized, the FAQs will be forwarded to Ms. O'Connor for posting on the website, and she will refer potential applicants to these to give them proper guidance in their requests.

Marketing and Outreach

Ms. Denton reviewed the registrations to date for the pre-application grant writing workshops and expressed the concern that they are slow in comparison to last year. As a result, members were asked to market the work shops this week to their contacts, many of whom may be under the misunderstanding that organizations must be non-profit to apply for funding.

Ms. Denton suggested that private providers need to be targeted and she will email her marketing blurb she sent the Academy of Family Physicians to Ms. O'Connor to be forwarded to Council members to assist in their marketing. Ms. O'Connor will include the list of potential groups and individuals that members are familiar with and had previously volunteered to contact.

Items for Follow-Up

- Map of 2008-2009 Grant Awards will be revised by Ms. O'Connor to reflect the unfunded non-Metro Colorado counties. The revised map will be distributed at the next meeting to assist in better targeting for outreach to promote applications in the 2010 grant cycle.
- Based on an availability poll by Ms. O'Connor prior to the meeting, it was agreed that the new date will be May 18. Ms. O'Connor will present the Final 2010 Timeline at the February 22 Council Meeting.
- Ms. O'Connor to revise the LOI deadline of February 19 in the Program literature and on the CRHC website.
- Ms. O'Connor to post the revised and additional FAQs on the CRHC website and will refer LOI writers to these to give them proper guidance in their requests.
- To target private providers, Ms. O'Connor will forward Ms. Denton's marketing message sent to the Academy of Family Physicians to Council members to assist in their marketing. Ms. O'Connor will

include the list of potential groups and individuals that Members are familiar with and had previously volunteered to contact.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday – February 22, 11:00 am – 2:00 pm.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 pm.

Submitted by:

Kent O'Connor – Executive Assistant
Colorado Rural Health Center