

Health Services Committee
North Port CHAT
December 2, 2009

Present: Sam George, Fay Williams, Vince Giuffre, Amy Lynch, Monica Becket, Diane Ramseyer

Sam George welcomed everyone and introductions were provided as this is Amy's first meeting.

H1N1 Flu Report – Sam has distributed brochures regarding the availability of a speaker from the CHAT on H1N1. Sam provided a recent workshop at Heron Creek in November. Sam included a retired physician as part of the event, which was an accent to the presentation. No other events are currently scheduled. Discussed possibility that people may feel they know enough about H1N1 already, and that this may be why no additional requests have been received. From schools to other venues, there has been a strong effort to educate the community, which has also contributed to greater community awareness. There was additional discussion on a local resident who has been sending emails regarding concern for a virus which has been localized to the Ukraine, and his feelings that the local Ukraine community should be made aware of this situation. Currently, the WHO and CDC indicate they are monitoring this virus, but, are not issuing any unusual precautions.

Fluoride Education Report – Monica has spoken again with Sean Isaac of the Florida Department of Health to update the activity of this group. The next step continues to be to work to get dental health education in the elementary schools. Discussed possible questions which might be included (regarding Dental Health) on the CHIP Community Health Survey. This might provide data which can be used for grant requests for a "Swish" program.

Tobacco Coalition Grant – Discussed ideas for conducting a community assessment related to tobacco. Ideas include providing an event for physicians which includes tools for helping with cessation, etc. As part of the event, the physicians will be asked for input on needs and resources they would like to see in the community which would help them better promote cessation. This will be used for the assessment. Sam and Fay will look into CME's – and Sam will talk with the American Lung Association about a program. Heron Creek will also be explored as a site for the event. Group also discussed the opportunity to use some of the funds for an additional assessment conducted in conjunction with the SWAT group at the high school. Some of their members will be at the CHAT meeting.

Welcome to New Practices – Oncology practice opened in Bobcat Trail Park – additionally, two new neurologists at Peace River and others coming. We will work on a list for these new additions, and work on a welcome for them.

Physician Recruitment – Discussed what additional specialties, etc. might be needed in the community, and which might be an emphasis for the committee to help pursue. Pediatrics continues to be a perceived need. Sam asked if it time to meet with SMH to discuss pediatrics and how to encourage a practice in the community. Another idea might be to meet with some of the Port Charlotte pediatricians regarding the possibility of expanding more in North Port. These ideas will be discussed more fully at the next meeting in January.