

North Port CHAT Health Services Committee  
February 3, 2011

**Present:** Linda Stone, Sam George, Vince Guiffre, Fay Williams, Monica Becket, Lorna DeRiggs, Anne Marie Lupien, Diane Ramseyer

Linda Stone, Chair, welcomed everyone and opened the meeting.

Sam George was thanked again for his contribution to the committee as Chair.

The group was updated on the efforts to get the plaque to Venice Regional Medical Center. Sam spoke with Peter Wozniak yesterday, at the North Port Health Center ribbon cutting. Mr. Wozniak asked Sam to email him with his contact information, so that a date can be set.

On February 8<sup>th</sup> we will greet Dr. Cefalu, pediatrician, at noon. An OB-GYN has also come, but will not be doing obstetrics. If we can coordinate that with Dr. Cefalu's visit, we will.

The date for the Knight Owls Health Fair is April 2<sup>nd</sup>. It will be at the Mullin Center. It will be from 9-12. Sam asked for assistance in securing the providers.

The North Port Health Center will be offering OB-GYN, as well. The Venice Clinic's primary care services will be relocated to the North Port site.

Anne Marie Lupien updated the group on the activities to facilitate the "North Port Celebrates Healthcare". There is a strong possibility of one of the local banks providing assistance for the refreshments. We will ask Tom Jones, Alan Lane and David Carter (as CHAT Chair) to speak. Anne Marie Lupien will be the M.C. Erin Bryce and Dianne Shipley can help with the publicity.

Linda asked the group to discuss the accomplishments and role of this committee historically, so that we can look at setting goals for moving forward.

In the past, the group has assumed these responsibilities:

- Create advocacy for increase healthcare access
  - North Port Emergency Room advocacy -DONE
  - Advocacy for Pediatricians - DONE
  - Welcoming Healthcare, supporting expansion - CONTINUING
  - Discussions with developers on Medical Condos - DONE
- Community Education on Special topics
  - H1N1 in past
- Advocacy for Dental Health Services – Dental Sealant Project
- Updated Health and Human Services Directory – ON-Going

Ideas for moving forward:

- Continue to look at specialty needs and services – advocacy and welcome
- Mental Health Services needed
- Explore possible “Carrots” to new and current providers as incentive to help with volunteer efforts for our indigent and underinsured. (Suggestion to hold meeting with Al Lane and Commissioner Jones, as CHAT rep, to look at opportunities that may be available through economic development.) Linda had some suggestions of other persons who can share how other communities do this.
- Committee Capacity Building - Improve community awareness of activities and services – find a media representative to attend meetings and find ways to better communicate these activities – Marketing Strategy as well.
- Coordinate efforts with North Port Health Center Board – at least create a strong line of communication.

Additionally, continue expressing the desire and need of the community for a hospital – looking at it from a new perspective and design. Find new examples of ways to provide healthcare – from a system of care perspective.

Linda closed with the plan with to use next meeting(s) to begin to strategize. Members asked to do some research on new approaches to health care delivery and systems of care.

April 16<sup>th</sup> – Healthy Start Baby Shower in North Port

Check out Epiphany Health Care insurance plan created by local physicians – including Dr. Gross.