

TULE RIVER INDIAN HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

TULE INDIAN RESERVATION

P.O. BOX 768

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PORTERVILLE, CALIFORNIA 93258

BOARD MEETING

DATE: August 2nd, 2006

TIME: 9:00 am

APPROVED MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER - The Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Neil Peyron at 9:20 am.

II. ROLL CALL

Present:

Neil Peyron

Teri Carothers

Vincent Burrough

Veronica McDarment

Patsy Vega

Joseph Garfield seated at 9:21

Absent:

Barbara Baga

Yolanda Gibson

Others Present:

Vida Khow, Executive Director

Daniele Healy, Executive Secretary

Susan Hale, Union Bank

Jim Carr, Union Bank

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

ADD h: Schedule Board Vacancy for next month.

MOTION #1: Patsy Vega/Vincent Burrough motioned to approve agenda with addition of h. Schedule Board Vacancy at the next meeting. The vote was 5.0.0, motion carried.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Patsy Vega was called away @9.28am; came back @ 9:39am.

MOTION #2: Joseph Garfield/Patsy Vega motioned to approve the minutes of July 12, 2006 with corrections. The vote

was 5.0.0, motion carried.

V. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Vida mentioned for information that the IHS conference call is scheduled on August 3rd @ 10:30 am. Purpose of the call is to give an update on embezzlement, Visalia clinic, how we handle referrals, diabetes program, open positions, grant statuses, a.o.
- b. In order to keep current with new positions and title changes of positions, the following changes/additions were made to the organization chart:
 - i. CFO changed to Fiscal Budget Analyst
 - ii. IT changed to IT Specialist
 - iii. Human Resources was added
 - iv. Public Health Nurse under CHS
 - v. Diabetes Nurse Coordinator moved under Nursing
 - vi. Medical Imaging & Laboratory Technicians fall under Medical Scope of Service, not Nursing

Veronica stepped out at 9:59 am.

A discussion arose regarding the open Public Health Nurse position. It has been very hard to recruit nurses. Vida asked for approval to hire a Public Health Nurse and advertise for that position. Teri wondered if Suzanne Zaw (Diabetes Nurse Coordinator starting in September) could combine both positions. Vida said it was not possible; Suzanne's position is funded 100% under the diabetes Grant money. The Diabetes Grant has been approved to 2007 if we keep up with quarterly audits. Public Health Nurse has a different focus than the diabetes Nurse. Focus in community & public health services. Diabetes nurses focus is on primary care in the clinic and eventually a focus on prevention in the community. It was requested to make a copy of all the grants to put in the Board books.

MOTION #3: Vincent Burrough/Patsy Vega motioned to approve hiring and advertising for the Public Health Nurse position. The vote was 4.0.1, motion carried. (Veronica was still out)

- c. Funds from the Visalia clinic furniture sale.

Not many items were sold. Another sale will be scheduled for the week of July 7th, 2006. Teri will oversee the sale.

- d. Medical Director Position - update at next meeting
- e. MIP Software Training - Update on Electronic Accounting System at next meeting
- f. Workman's Compensation Hearing - Update: Should be Unemployment Hearing

Patsy Vega & Teri Carothers went to Bakersfield to testify on behalf of the Health Board regarding Farrell Neely's unemployment status, whether he resigned, or not. What caused his resignation was the main topic. In one of the letters Farrell said we did not pay his salary. He **was** paid, by direct deposit but he claims he did not get a hard copy. The meeting went well, according to Teri. The Judge will make a decision in 2 weeks. Farrell had another hearing after our hearing, but Teri and Patsy were not asked to stay. Judge reiterated several times that Farrell was aware that he was not laid off. The letter from Neil was presented at the hearing. Neil should give a copy to Teri and Patsy for the file.

The Judge seemed to be a real no-nonsense judge who wanted to hear only what pertained to his resignation. Farrell had to admit that he did resign due to hearsay from a Grievance Committee during a Board Meeting. He basically admitted that he filled out a fraudulent claim. Also, the Judge caught on that he claimed for unemployment prior to his resignation date.

Teri believes that the judgment will come back in our favor.

Veronica returned at 10:18am.

- g. CRIHB Debate - Pro's & Con's - Discussion

Joseph Garfield handed out a "CRIHB 20 years of Accomplishments" document.

Teri questioned whether we get our money's worth for the \$240K we pay CRIHB annually. "They did not provide services when we were in a bind, when we had a lot of resignations."

Teri asked Joseph Garfield: "what do you provide as part of CRIHB?" Joseph responded: "100% for salaries. CRIHB put their money where it is needed. They also provide technical assistance and staffing when available. We need to let our needs known through IHS." Teri proposed to have CRIHB

submit a list of what is available to us instead of us requesting help when needed. What people are available, i.e., in Fiscal, letting know the kind of software we use.

Neil agreed that we should give them a list of our expectations.

Teri suggested that we send them a letter; saying that we are seriously considering continuing our service with CRIHB; listing services we are not happy with (MIP system purchased by CRIHB for us = not compatible with RPMS).

Neil feels that we would have probably fallen apart with "the last thing" had CRIHB not been there to support us. "It is a political body and technical support. We need to be the squeaky wheel and let them know what we are not happy with."

Vida mentioned that she supports technical issues the Board has, but sometime it is better to look at the big picture. In reality, politics is what makes things happen - CRIHB is a legislative advocate on the national scene. Without their advocacy we could have lost DHHS IHP funding.

Joseph mentioned that past nominees get recognition for what they have done - Veronica's dad and Joseph's dad, for example.

Neil agrees that we are not getting the services that we deserve.

We got a little above \$4.6M from IHS (Federal shares are taken off the top).

Joseph asked for a wish list from Board and will present it when he meets with CRIHB on August 10.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Departmental Reports

- a. Fiscal - presented by Lori Castello
 - the Fiscal department completed MIP training and everyone is cross-trained. Fiscal Auditor was also involved in training.
 - FBI investigation continues. Next site meeting on August 4; some monies never deposited (\$100K, also \$30K cash); 2 different bonds (one for all employees, one for administrators) will help to recuperate our money.
 - Lori went over the balances as of 8/1/06. The purpose for transferring accounts to

Union Bank is because it yields a better interest 4.65% in checking.

- Last year expenses were over 500K - now \$300K. July should be \$387,777.02

- The Yard sale brought in \$515.00; we did not get a lot of people and we will re-run on Tuesday & Wednesday next week to eliminate stuff in storage and no longer have to pay for storage.

- From now on, Fiscal will run checks once a week on Thursdays - Stipends checks will be run once a week on Fridays.

10:03 - Veronica left

b. Dental

Vida mentioned great improvements in the Dental Department, Vida read Dr. Newman's report.

One issue that we need to address: patient appointments; they have a real problem with no-shows and increased patient waiting time.

Veronica back at 10:04 am

Veronica stepped back out at 10:07 am.

c. Medical

- X-Ray Technician was let go; she was functioning out of her scope of practice. She left with P&P manual - Vida will consult with our attorney as to returning the manual as this is Federal property.

- Medical Director Position: Dr Rao had told Vida that he was leaving as of July 31st, 2006 and was going back to the prison system and make more money. His agency will charge us a \$19,500 fee for direct hire as staff physician.

- Dr. Rao wants the Director position. Vida is concerned because she has received several grievances (calls nurses and patients stupid) and she has observed him in emergency situations where he walked away and let the nurse handle it. Vida wants to continue to recruit. Her goal is to improve the medical care; patients don't trust doctors here.

- Vida recommends 2 doctors for the position:

(1) Dr. Nassaux who received glowing recommendations. (2) Dr. Adams who may stay on an interim basis.

- Neil recommended that Vida negotiate an offer with Dr. Adams for a 90 days contract.
- Dr. Rao's contract was extended until the end of August. Vida will contact agencies for recruitment prior to canceling Dr. Rao's contract.

d. Nursing

Vida went over the Nursing report

e. Contract Health Services

Vida went over the CHS report and mentioned the CHS Workshop in Las Vegas on Sept 26 & 27; Neil suggested that the CHS committee attend: Teri, Joseph, Barbara, Yolanda

Managing Contract Health Services - See copy of flier.

Took a break from 11:27 to 11:38 am.

Patsy Vega came back @ 11:40 am.

f. Community Health Services

Vida introduced Carla Nelson, Director of Community Health Services.

Carla presented her report.

- Carla encountered a few problems when she first started, that have already been corrected. 1st day on the job had several complaints regarding transporters and made that her priority.

- Carla made Lola Ogden Lead Patient Escort. She is a valuable resource.

Yesterday - dental set up an appointment for a patient that was under age, with no phone # or address. Lola knows her and went to her house - unfortunately the patient was not home. This kind of mishaps can be eliminated. Lola has access to the RPMS system and is checking eligibility of patients to be transported (only CHS).

Trying hard to communicate with people to transport (patients still in bed).

- Carla will present the transportation policy at the staff meeting tomorrow and read the policy to the Board; she asked

everyone on the Board to support the Transportation Guidelines. Patsy suggested bringing the guidelines to the Personnel Committee, to ensure it follows the policy. Vida commented that the guidelines come right out of the policy manual, policies and procedures that have been approved by the Board.

- Carla reported no complaints about transportation last week.

- Carla will educate the clinic staff of parameters. "We have only 3 transporters to take care of 2000+ people so we need to set priorities, but I am confident it will work".

- Carla accompanied Transporter for Meals on Wheels and has gotten a lot of feedback from the community.

Carla pulled CHRs from transport who are now doing actual CHR work; the community loves them.

- Carla brought a recommendation from Lola to the Board's attention: how we could do Wheels on Meals for people housebound, and bring people together - if we were to transport them one day a week (MOW is free on Wednesdays) and take as many seniors as possible to the casino where they can have the buffet and give them education. (they have a free meal coupon(tribal members only). Patsy suggested to combine this with the Elders - contact Mary Hermio. Would meet requirement for AOA (check with Carla or Margaret)

- Teri commented that the Elders used to walk; but that was stopped - Carla will follow-up.

Carla commented that her department's strength is really good staff, but not enough of them!

- Felicia, transferred from Visalia, is on maternity leave and Liz is on medical leave. 2 temp transporters were hired through JRU.

- Carla is looking at ways to reduce overtime; she is getting statistics together (how many transports a day,

- distance and time).
- g. Mental Health - Vida read the report
 - h. Susan Hale & Jim Carr of the Union Bank introduced themselves and updated the signature card for the new account.
 - i. Diabetes Report
Margaret Hernandez presented the report prepared by Lita Scott. Lita Scott was invited for 3 weeks to complete the Diabetes Grant.
Her research showed 333 diabetic patients in the register is register, of which 192 are active and review the program.
Margaret manages the RPMS database for Diabetics.
Special Diabetes Program of Indians (SDPI).
Patsy questioned how they were using the RPMS system. PCC is the piece of paper where actions need to be documented.
Patsy asked if patient charts are being signed out and who checks whether all documents are put back in chart and if it would not be easier to work on the charts there without taking the charts out -
Margaret needs to get access to a computer and the area is already very crowded.
Medical records should never leave the medical building. It is still on the same campus - not leaving the area.

12:42 - Vincent Burrough left the room, returned @ 12:43pm.

Very good report -193 pages = one question.
The Diabetes report was sent in on 7/24/06 and we received the money on 8/1/96. - got money in yesterday.

Neil had emergency - needs to leave @ 12:45pm.

MOTION #4: Patsy Vega/Joseph Garfield motioned to approve/accept the department reports as presented - The vote was 5.0.1, motion carried.

A special meeting is scheduled for 8:30 am on Wednesday, August 9 to evaluate the Executive Director's 3 months performance.

The next agenda items will be reviewed at the next meeting.

B. Budget Status

C. State Radiology Site Visit

D. Resignation of Medical Benefits Coordinator

E. Policy Review

F. Executive Director 3-month Evaluation

VII. AJOURNMENT - the meeting was unofficially adjourned at 12:45 pm.