

**MANATEE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION
COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER
1112 Manatee Avenue West
Bradenton, Florida
February 12, 2015**

Present were Commissioners:

Betsy Benac, Chairman
Vanessa Baugh, First Vice-Chairman
John R. Chappie, Second Vice-Chairman
Charles B. Smith, Third Vice-Chairman
Lawrence E. Bustle, Jr.
Robin DiSabatino
Carol Whitmore

Also present were:

Ed Hunzeker, County Administrator, assisted by
Karen Windon, Deputy County Administrator
Mitchell O. Palmer, County Attorney
Robin Liberty, Deputy Clerk, Clerk of Circuit Court

Chairman Benac called the work session to order at 9:00 a.m.

AGENDA

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1. **COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE AND FUTURE PROGRAMS FOR THE UNINSURED AND UNDERINSURED**

 Barry Banther, Banther Consulting Corporation, facilitated a discussion on health care by presenting three questions: (1) What is the goal regarding funding the uninsured and indigent, (2) What is the right number, and how do we arrive at that number, and (3) What is the plan and its parameters.

Dialogue ensued regarding the plan in effect for the past 30 years, the current plan is not working, the Board has not come to consensus on what should be funded, there is no concise plan, and the need to define the words “underinsured” and “indigent.”

 Brenda Rogers, Community Services Director, stated the current federal poverty level is \$11,000 annually for an individual and \$22-24,000 annually for a family of four.

Dialogue ensued regarding the population eligible and ineligible for Obama care, high deductibles, amount of funding needed for hospital and medical facilities, Corpus Fund is depleted, qualification/eligibility process is performed by the hospital as well as an external auditor, existing providers/partners, variations in contracted services, specific providers need to be identified, \$14 million is currently allocated from the general fund to existing, county contracts, County cannot afford to continue to provide this level of funding, taxpayers are funding health care, sales tax referendum failed, and it is imperative to determine a specific funding limit.

Ms. Windon listed the services that currently receive funding.

Based upon dialogue, Mr. Banther summarized Plan questions that need to be answered: (1) Summary of “Asks” from providers; (2) What are our Required Health Care expenditures; (3)

What are the qualifications; (4) Understand our partners – what they are providing; (5) How can current costs be reduced; (6) How is someone excluded/numbers; (7) What would a unified process look like; (8) Case Management; (9) Suggest a round table with providers and avoid duplication; (10) Breakdown of mandatory/additional funding needed: Jail/Medical, State Medicaid match, State mandated Emergency Room; and, (11) Patients that qualify – what were the true costs of the write-offs, the amount of doctor's loss, and the claims unpaid.

Dialogue ensued regarding concern if Low Income Pool (LIP) Funding ceases to exist and the uncertainty as to how this will affect the County, understand the services currently being provided, relationship with providers, and, how the Board can best capitalize with providers.

RECESS: 10:08 a.m. to 10:20 a.m.

Additional questions were presented: (12) What are the contributions from our providers/partners; (13) Where do patients come from and the demographics of those served; (14) Psychiatric care – acute care life and limb only; and, (15) Breakdown of mandatory funds.

Mr. Banther offered an assumption on how to fund the plan by Sales Tax, Property Tax, General Revenue, provider contributions, Special Taxing District/Board, and another source that is unknown at this time.

Further discussion ensued regarding LIP funding, Navigant Report, Hardee County has a separate working group to focus on medical issues, data from in and out of state, and determining the portion of millage required to supplement funding.

Mr. Banther summarized Board consensus that Plan questions 10, 11, and 12 are critical.



Mickey Presha, Manatee County Rural Health Services Director, invited Board members and staff to visit Rural Health to learn about the services provided.

Sandy Kirkpatrick, President of Turning Points, suggested a working group be developed.

Paul Valenz, First Vice-President, Federation of Manatee County Community Associations, requested the Board utilize matching funds.

Kevin DiLallo, Manatee Memorial Hospital CEO, commended the County for its current funding plan, applauded the Board on seeking a better plan to fund the health care program, spoke on LIP funding, matching funds, and the impending sunset of the LIP Program in June 2015.

Suzanne Dickey, League of Women Voters, commented on funding allocations.

Jeanie Slater, Turning Points, concurred on holding round table discussions with providers.

Jennifer Bencie, M.D., Health Department, suggested exploring other funding options, involve Emergency Medical Services (EMS) more in service delivery and integrate services.

Discussion ensued on the need for greater transparency on service outcomes and contracts.

Ray Fusco, Turning Points, expressed concern of the anticipated sunset of LIP funding, the need to define population/demographics, current structure of Obama's Affordable Health Care Act, and a fundamental change in approach. He suggested securing the advice of an insurance expert to network with service providers.

Sarah Cohen voiced concern of raising impact fees, millage rates, and property taxes to subsidize health care.

Suzie Copeland, President of NAACP, endorsed using property and sales taxes, and suggested bringing opponents to a round table for discussion.

Glen Gibellina commended Rural Health, there are duplication of services, greater accountability is needed, read the poverty guidelines of Polk County, and addressed universal health care services.

Phil Brown, President of United Way, expressed concern of the County's short- and long-term goals to provide health care and how this burden should be shared.

There being no further citizen comments, Chairman Benac concluded Citizen Comments.

Discussion ensued regarding not using matching funds, positive comments received at this work session, assurance that the Board is committed to change, explore which agencies can provide the best service at the best price, and clear understanding of the budget process.

Mr. Presha spoke about grant funds received by Rural Health Services for an Emergency Room Diversion Program and explained the Accountable Care Program.

Ed Hunzeker, County Administrator, suggested that a qualified individual or firm should be hired to examine all the data gathered, and he outlined two goals: (1) seek funding in the upcoming budget to match a program yet to be defined on a Federal and State level to replace the LIP Program, and (2) apply the knowledge by work session participants.

Mr. Banther outlined the action steps of awareness and accountability action steps needed by the Board.

It was suggested Mr. Banther attend future meetings as the Board works through the action plan and accountability action steps.

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ADJOURN

There being no further business, Chairman Benac adjourned the work session at 12:00 p.m.

Minutes Approved: _____