

CITRUS PARTNERSHIP IN HEALTH MINUTES

Lecanto Government Building, Room 166

September 27, 2007

WELCOME / INTRODUCTIONS

(Ginni Crandall, Citrus CHD)

Ginni welcomed everyone to the meeting. Attendees introduced themselves, sharing laughter during a light-hearted icebreaker.

Marybeth Nayfield, the Citrus County Health Department Administrator, sends her regrets that she is unable to attend today's meeting. She will try to attend our next quarterly meeting in January 2008. Marybeth is retiring on November 1, after three decades with the Health Department. Contact Ellen Lodgek (352) 527-0068 x264, Ellen_Lodgek@doh.state.fl.us, if you are interested in attending an evening of dinner and dancing on November 3 to celebrate Marybeth's retirement.

COMMUNITY PHARMACY

(John Marmish, Exec. Director, United Way of Citrus County)

John passed out a brochure, "*The Community Pharmacy*." We hope to bring a Community Pharmacy to Citrus County as a partnership between community services and United Way.

Our vision is that any resident of Citrus County who cannot afford prescriptions will be able to purchase medications at cost with a \$4 fill fee for each prescription to cover the operating cost of the pharmacy. An individual would not have to prove income, just walk up and get the medicine. No private insurance would be processed, but Medicaid will be accepted. People with health care insurance will probably continue using their local retail pharmacy.

The location will not be announced until the site is up and running. \$300,000 is needed to get the site renovated and to provide one year of operating coverage. State legislators are supportive, but the State budget made funds unavailable this year. They are doing a grass roots movement to write and ask for appropriation of \$300,000. We can help by sending them money or sending a letter to Senators Nelson and Martinez (they need approximately thirty letters). John passed around a sheet to sign up if you are interested.

How does this differ from WalMart and other generic drug programs? Publix has free antibiotics. WalMart has \$4 meds, but with limited medications. The *Community Pharmacy* will have a full formulary. The non-profit operation will be run by the Citrus County Health Department, with the hope to be self-supporting by the second year of operation. Once the *Community Pharmacy* processes 250 prescriptions a day, it should be able to be financially solvent.

John handed out a flyer that detailed several available *Prescription Discount Cards*. These programs can provide discounts for families with no prescription coverage until the *Community Pharmacy* is operational. They include:

1. Citrus County Prescription Discount Card
2. FamilyWize Prescription Drug Discount Card
3. American Consultants Rx Discount Care
4. Partnership for Prescription Assistance

Cards, brochures, and enrollment forms for these programs were available at the meeting. There is also a State government website that gives consumers the ability to compare prices of frequently prescribed drugs, by county: www.myfloridarx.com.

BREAST AND CERVICAL CANCER

(Sheri Reed, RN, Citrus CHD)

When Sheri worked in another county, she handled the Susan G. Komen Foundation grant, which helped with mammograms. The criteria were low income with no insurance. The grant was written to provide services for certain age groups as set by the Foundation: age 35-49 could come into the Health Department for a breast exam, and age 40-49 could get a free mammogram. If something was found during the examination, there was enough money to cover an ultrasound. Patients would then be referred to Moffett Center in Tampa for additional treatment. Sheri would like help from people in our community to try to get the Susan G. Komen grant for Citrus County.

We would also need to get the information out to our community. Part of the grant included giving outreach presentations about breast health. Women do not want to know how to do a breast exam. Women need the presentations, regardless of age or income level.

Ginni passed around a sign-up sheet for people to work on the grant or to help find places and people to do presentations.

What is the procedure at the Health Department for pap smears? The Citrus County Health Department uses a sliding fee scale. There is a flat fee for the lab charges, but everything is very reasonably based on your income.

TOBACCO COALITION

(Anne Black, Tobacco Control Specialist, Citrus CHD)

Anne passed around two (2) handouts detailing Tobacco Control efforts in Citrus County and our goals for the future. She reviewed where the Tobacco Coalition monies come from and summarized efforts to prevent Tobacco use since the 1970s. She shared statistics about Tobacco and Respiratory Illness in Citrus County. This is a top concern in our community.

The Citrus County Health Department got approval on a new grant yesterday to expand our Tobacco Control program. The new money addresses adults to decrease tobacco use, second-hand smoke, and women smoking during pregnancy. The tobacco industry targets youth from 14-24. Grant funding will also help to empower this age group.

The grant has three (3) components. First, Community Partnerships will strengthen local partnerships, including the Drug Coalition and School Health Advisory Board. The Youth component will develop leadership role models to increase knowledge and change attitudes and social norms about the use and health effects of tobacco. It will promote youth activities that seek to create policy change and coordinate with other community efforts. The third component of the grant, Chronic Disease, will promote the cessation of second-hand smoke exposure to persons with chronic diseases such as diabetes, asthma, cardiovascular disease, and stroke through education and cessation efforts.

CHRONIC DISEASE

(Tom O'Brien, Health Educator, Citrus CHD)

The common thread is that tobacco use leads to preventable chronic disease. Tom distributed a *Tobacco Control Research Digest* from 1999. The headlines shows we've come full circle: "*Hand in Hand – Community Partnerships and Tobacco Use Prevention.*" We are excited that this new pot of money will help everyone in the community. We need to find an innovative approach to reduce the effect of tobacco on chronic disease. This will need to be a dual process through education and prevention (cessation efforts).

Anne Black is now our Tobacco Prevention Specialist. Tom works closely with her and he still conducts the Freedom from Smoking classes. They hope to develop employee wellness programs that are going to be permanent, self-sustained programs within community organizations. Tom will give his business cards to different community groups, such as Healthy Families, so they can refer individuals to him. His goal is to get all county providers to have a referral system and an avenue so people don't have to wait until the next class. Once someone makes up their mind to stop smoking, that's when you need to capture these individuals.

Are we utilizing on-line computer support groups? Tom gives out website information, like Freedom from Smoking and Whyquit.com.

Do we advocate drugs? Chantix works really well. The drug curbs the urges and helps get you through the withdrawal. Tom offers the patches through the county on "quit night."

If you know anybody looking for resources for chronic disease, have them call Tom (527-5560) so he can refer them to right areas. Also, contact Tom to arrange for a presentation. We hope you will all consider yourselves pieces of the whole. Together we can make a huge impact on our community.

CAR SEAT SAFETY

(Sue Littnan, Citrus CHD)

Sue Littnan reminded us that car seat safety does tie in to smoking issues. Sue consistently sees parents or pregnant women in her car seat classes with cigarettes. There is definitely an impact on infants of smoking in the small, confined space of a motor vehicle.

The Health Department participates with the Office of Injury Prevention Advisory Council. They are developing a website and resources of injury prevention projects to duplicate in other communities. The Council addresses issues such as falls, drowning prevention, poisoning, traumatic brain injuries (sporting activities), and motor vehicle safety. It has partnered with the Sheriff's Office *Student Defensive Driving* training, as well as a seatbelt compliance competition (the *Battle of the Belts*). Susan's group also hopes to find funding to provide defensive driving training for county staff so we can update our driving skills.

Susan thanked anyone who contributed \$2 to the Car Seat Safety program when renewing their vehicle license tag. That money goes into a fund for highway patrol to purchase car seats for distribution. The Car Seat program will have provided 400 car seats and boosters this fiscal year. Please refer clients so we can help them with a new car seat. Encourage families to get their car seats inspected. If you have an agency or group that needs presentation on any of these topics, call Susan at (352) 726-1731, X242.

RED DRESS COLLECTION

(Rebecca West, Citrus Memorial)

Heart disease is the #1 killer of women (1 in 4 women will die of heart disease). Rebecca West (Citrus Memorial Women's Heart Program) needs helpers for a big event – the *Red Dress Collection* – being held on February 15, 2008. The Red Dress Collection originated in New York. It is a fashion platform featuring red dresses from the industry's elite designers worn by top fashion models and celebrities. Those red dresses are then rented to local communities right after Valentine's Day for the Red Dress Woman's Heart Luncheon. The dresses will be on display on mannequins with information about who modeled and wore the red dresses. The luncheon kicks off a three-day agenda, which ends on Saturday, February 16, with a Heart Health walk.

Rebecca had pamphlets available about the Red Dress Collection, as well as informative magnets from the Citrus Memorial Women's Heart Program.

CLOSING

We appreciate the help each of you do in the community. Together, we can make a huge impact on the health of Citrus County. Please encourage your friends, neighbors, and coworkers to join our *Partnership* and to participate in the wonderful local organizations. They are all a vital link in ensuring that Citrus County is a health place to be!

MEETINGS

Our next meeting is in the Lecanto Government Building, Room 166 on:

Thursday January 24, 2008
8:30 – 11:00 a.m.