

Attached is Agenda Item #25

**Ratification of Board Actions Taken at the
March 11, 2014 Workshop on Primary
Healthcare**

(This is a General Business Item and will be taken up after the Public Hearing)

Meeting of Tuesday, March 11, 2014

This document distributed March 11, 2014

Leon County Board of County Commissioners

Cover Sheet for Agenda #25

March 11, 2014

To: Honorable Chairman and Members of the Board

From: Vincent S. Long, County Administrator

Title: Ratification of Board Actions Taken at the March 11, 2014 Workshop on Primary Healthcare

County Administrator Review and Approval:	Vincent S. Long, County Administrator
Department/ Division Review:	Alan Rosenzweig, Deputy County Administrator Candice M. Wilson, Director, Office of Human Services and Community Partnerships
Lead Staff/ Project Team:	Eryn D. Calabro, Financial Compliance Manager Shington Lamy, Assistant to the County Administrator Rosemary F. Evans, Healthcare Services Coordinator

Fiscal Impact:

This item has no fiscal impact; however, \$1.7 million is allocated annually to the provision of healthcare services in the community.

Staff Recommendation:

Option #1: Ratify Board actions taken at the March 11, 2014 Workshop on Primary Healthcare.

Report and Discussion

Background:

On September 24, 2013, the Board directed staff to engage Mercer to conduct an analysis of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and its impact on the County's CareNet program. During that same meeting, the Board directed staff to apply for the National Association of Counties (NACo) *Community Dialogues to Improve Health* Initiative to host a one-day community dialogue to discuss healthcare in our community. Leon County was selected to host a *Community Dialogue*. At its December 9, 2013 retreat, the Board directed staff to hold a workshop to discuss the parameters in which the County could become a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC). On December 10, 2013, the Board requested Bond Community Health Center (Bond) and Neighborhood Medical Center's (NMC) submit a joint application for the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Service Area Competition (SAC). Subsequently, Bond and NMC applied separately. On January 21, 2014, the Board directed staff to schedule a workshop on primary healthcare for March 11, 2014, to discuss opportunities for greater community collaboration and provide further guidance prior to the NACo *Day of Dialogue* on April 3, 2014.

Analysis:

Staff conducted a workshop on the Primary Healthcare Program on March 11, 2014. To address the Board's questions raised during the Retreat and the December 10, 2013 meeting, the workshop was comprised of information divided into eight sections.

1. Overview of the CareNet Program
2. Leon County Healthcare Coordination Efforts
3. Summary of the Mercer Study
4. Update on Spacing Needs for Neighborhood Medical Center
5. Update on HRSA Funding
6. Status Report on the CareNet Partners Monthly Meetings
7. NACo Day of Dialogue Meeting
8. Options for Greater Collaboration and Coordination of Primary Healthcare in Leon County

Staff provided an overview of the Primary Healthcare Program and the CareNet partners, which are funded at \$1.7 million annually. An update on the HRSA SAC process was provided, detailing events that led to both Bond and NMC applying separately for the same grant. At the time of this workshop, a funding decision has not been announced by HRSA.

The Board was given a detailed overview of Mercer's phase one report, which discusses the Affordable Care Act and its potential impact on the CareNet program and Leon County. It is noted in the Mercer report that without the expansion of Medicaid in Florida, there still exists a coverage gap of those who are not eligible for Medicaid and are not eligible for subsidized coverage on the Federal Health Insurance Marketplace. The CareNet program serves Leon County residents in this coverage gap.

In conjunction with recommendations made by Mercer, staff will implement the following in the upcoming fiscal year:

1. Modify contracts to require information related to age and employment status be captured.
2. Require providers to coordinate with the Leon County Sheriff's Office with regard to Medicaid enrollment for inmates.
3. Direct staff to coordinate with the Leon County Health Department regarding potential funding through the Prevention and Public Health Fund.

These measures will help ensure that those who are eligible are properly directed to Medicaid or the Federal Health Insurance Marketplace.

Staff reported on the thorough evaluation done on Neighborhood Medical Center's spacing needs. It was determined that a move by NMC to Health Department space was not feasible due to the high cost of renovations and concerns about reduction of services. It was noted that the Health Department is no longer contracting with Bond, NMC, or any other entity for the provision of primary healthcare services.

Staff gave an overview of the upcoming Day of Dialogue, scheduled for April 3, 2014. CareNet and associated community partners are invited. The Dialogue will be a day-long conversation focused on enhancing the CareNet program and bringing partners together for greater collaboration. It is the Board's expectation that this event would result in a formal partnership between Bond and NMC. The outcomes of the Day of Dialogue will be discussed at a workshop on May 13, 2014.

Options for greater collaboration and coordination of primary healthcare were discussed. Staff identified and gave an overview of four recommendations for the Board's consideration, if the Day of Dialogue does not produce the level of collaboration and partnership desired by the Board. These options included:

1. Establish a FQHC with the Board of County Commissioners as the governing body.
2. Establish a FQHC with a board comprised of community healthcare partners.
3. Explore a partnership with North Florida Medical Centers.
4. Establish a competitive process for primary healthcare funding.

The Board discussed the competitive process for primary healthcare funding. It was noted the Board may wish to consider a multi-year funding process.

The Board approved the following options, with the addition of Big Bend Cares as a participant in the Day of Dialogue.

1. Accept Mercer's Study on the Impacts of Affordable Care Act to the County's CareNet Program and direct the following:
 - a. Effective next fiscal year, modify contract with healthcare providers to require that the additional information related to age and employment status is captured and have the providers demonstrate that eligible individuals are being directed to other appropriate healthcare options. This will have a minor fiscal impact in that the current system will require modifications to accommodate the new eligibility requirements.
 - b. Effective next fiscal year, modify contract with healthcare providers to require coordination with the Leon County Sheriff's Office with regard to Medicaid enrollment for inmates.
 - c. Direct staff to coordinate with the Leon County Health Department to evaluate potential impacts of the Affordable Care Act related to the Prevention and Public Health Fund.
2. Accept staff report on space analysis for Neighborhood Medical Center and take no further action on the issue of Neighborhood Medical Center's space at this time.
3. Accept the agenda for the April 3, 2014 *Community Dialogue to Improve Health*.
4. Direct the County Administrator to send letters to Bond Community Health Center and Neighborhood Medical Center expressing the Board's position and expectation that the *Community Dialogue to Improve Health* results in a formal partnership between the two healthcare agencies.
5. Direct staff to explore the following options should the *Community Dialogue to Improve Health* not result in a formal partnership between Bond Community Health Center and Neighborhood Medical Center for Board consideration at the May 13, 2014 Workshop:
 - a. Establish a Federally Qualified Health Center with the Board of County Commissioners as the governing body.
 - b. Establish a Federally Qualified Health Center with the County as a co-applicant and with a Federally Qualified Health Center Board comprised of community healthcare partners.
 - c. Explore partnership with North Florida Medical Center to expand and enhance services in Leon County.
 - d. Establish a Competitive Process for Primary Healthcare Funding.

Options:

1. Ratify Board actions taken at the March 11, 2014 Workshop on Primary Healthcare.
2. Do not ratify actions taken at the March 11, 2014 Workshop on Primary Healthcare.
3. Board direction.

Recommendation:

Option #1.