**Columbia County Community Healthcare Consortium, Inc.  
Executive Committee  
Notes from the meeting of May 24, 2017**

**Attending Members**: Beth Schuster, Theresa Lux, Linda Tripp, Robin Andrews

**Absent Members**: Tam Mustapha, Art Proper

**Staff Members**: Claire Parde, Lisa Thomas, Tony Markham

**CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting was called to order at **9:01 a.m**. by President Beth Schuster

The meeting commenced with a brief discussion of the Annual Recognition Event that was held May 18, 2017. While Tony and Claire struggled to work with the facility and caterer, happily their frustrations were not shared by the guests, who appeared to enjoy the event. Claire commented on the many new faces seen at this year’s event but also the absence of many Board members. One way to ensure board member participation in the future may be to have an abbreviated Board meeting immediately followed by the event. Discussion to be continued.

Executive Director’s Report  
At this time, Claire provided her Executive Director’s Report (see attached), offering the following highlights:

Claire updated the Committee on the evolving service delivery situation with the Transportation Program, and commended the Transportation Program Team for how they handled the many challenges they have recently faced.

Next, Claire followed up on her previous report concerning the unfavorable state budget cuts that have impacted three Consortium programs:

1. The Rural Health Network Development Program (cut by 21.1%).
2. Cancer Services Program (cut by 5%)
3. NYConnects (base funding eliminated for next grant period beginning 10/1/17)

Claire indicated that some of these cuts were less than expected while others were slightly greater. However, she reminded the Committee that the Consortium has a healthy fund balance and strong cash position, so the cuts should not create major disruption, or necessitate layoffs.

As part of the developing solution to these cuts, Transportation Program expenses in the form of salary/fringe support and Other Than Personnel Expenses would be eliminated from the RHN budget. In addition, the cost-accounting of administrative salaries would be reevaluated.

The Committee entered into a discussion on the distinction between politics and policy. It was agreed that it is wholly appropriate for the Board to discuss healthcare policy during its meetings.

On a similar note, Claire solicited feedback from the Committee on a proposal from Mark Vinciguerra, Publisher, Columbia-Greene Media, for her to author a “My View” column on national healthcare policy. After discussion of the topic, it was agreed that it is a good opportunity that should be pursued.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at **10:05 a.m**.

The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for June 28, 2017.

**Columbia County Community Healthcare Consortium, Inc.**

**Executive Committee Meeting**

**May 24, 2017**

**Executive Director’s Report**

**Update on Medicaid transportation**

As previously reported, we resumed service delivery for PROS clientele on Monday, April 10th. We were subsequently contacted by MAS on April 27th and asked to submit a bid (flat fee per individual) to serve all clientele originating in Columbia County with a destination of 713 Union Street (MHA). We negotiated with MAS to submit a bid for PROS clientele originating at group homes only (with the addition of one client who we have historically transported at Whittier), which we did, for $17.00/person, on May 5th. MAS has indicated that they are aiming to transition from FFS to contracted service delivery effective June 1st.

In the meantime, MAS also contacted us again about pursuing a Volunteer Transportation Program. I indicated that we had conducted a preliminary investigation of this model and determined, with our Board of Directors, that it was not a suitable model to pursue at this time, to which they responded that they hoped our Board of Directors “finds it prudent” to do so in the future. Chilly!

**Update on funding cuts**

As previously reported, the state budget was unfavorable to public health programs, including three housed at the Consortium:

1. Our Rural Health Network Development Program contract (April 1, 2017-March 31, 2018) was reduced from $240,000 to $189,383, a difference of $50,617, or 21.1%. We are currently revising our work plans and budgets and will submit by week’s end.
2. Our Cancer Services Program Infrastructure contract for period 5 (April 1, 2017 – March 31, 2018) was reduced from $140,000 to $133,000, a difference of $7,000, or 5%, and the contract for period 6 (April 1, 2018 - September 30, 2018) will be $66,500 (instead of $70,000). Our Cancer Services Program Clinical Services contract for period 5 5 (April 1, 2017 – March 31, 2018) was reduced from $25,000 to $16,332, a difference of $8,668, or 34.7% and for period 6 (April 1, 2018 - September 30, 2018) will be $8,166 (instead of $12,500). Revised work plans and budgets due June 12th.
3. We have been advised that the NYConnects base funding ($43,987) was eliminated from the state budget for the next grant period beginning October 1, 2017.



In summary, the estimated reduction in revenue in FY17 is $60,711 and the estimated reduction in revenue for FY18 is $57,396. This does not reflect that the 5-year contract for the Rural Health Network Development Program ends with the current contract year. It is unclear whether future funding for the program will be at current reduced levels, if offered at all.

**Policy and Strategy**

* We continue to keep a careful watch on national health care policy initiatives.

**Program Planning**

* We continue to meet with core members of the Opioid Epidemic Response Subcommittee. Commissioner Gibson and I will serve as co-chairs of the Legislative Affairs Working Group.
* We continue to meet regularly with CC4U and CPR about the launch of the recovery helpline.

**Personnel Management**

* Shortly, we will advertise for the Youth Engagement Coordinator for our Tobacco Control Program.

**Board and Community Relations**

* The Tobacco Control Program hosted its annual Partners in Prevention Breakfast on Thursday, April 27th from 8 to 9:30 at Solaris on Warren Street in Hudson. I and several staff members attended.
* I attended the CMH Annual Volunteer Service Recognition Luncheon at Winding Brook Country Club in Valatie later the same day.
* On Tuesday, May 16th, I attended the NYSHealth Foundation’s Community Advisory Committee Meeting, where I spoke about the Consortium’s work and health priorities in the Upper Hudson Valley.
* On Thursday, May 18th, I attended the PHIP Advisory Committee Meeting at Saint Mary’s Hospital in Troy.
* On Thursday, May 18th we hosted the Annual Recognition Event at the Falls, which was attended by 69 people, including 13 board members and 14 staff.

**Upcoming events**

* I and several staff will be attending Interagency Awareness Day at CGCC on Thursday, May 25th. The Consortium will have 3 tables.
* On June 8th, we will be attending the Greene County Chamber of Commerce’s Annual Recognition Event in Windham.
* On June 15th, I will attend the NYSHealth Foundation’s Reception in Albany, and the VIP Reception beforehand.
* On June 27th, I will participate in the next meeting of the Human Services Advisory Council assembled by Assemblymember Didi Barrett at the Omega Institute.