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

**Board of Directors Meeting**

**April 5, 2017**

**Executive Director’s Report**

**Change to the Consortium’s Medical Transportation Program**

On Friday, February 24th, we learned that all our “standing orders” for group rides—the transportation we have been providing on a daily basis, for over three years, to Medicaid enrollees with serious mental illness living in group homes and traveling to and from PROS (the day habilitation program offered by the Mental Health Association in Hudson, NY)—had been reassigned to Adirondack Cab Co. from Ticonderoga, NY in Essex County, effective Monday, February 27th.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Unique Medicaid Clients | % of MA | % of total | Trips | % of MA | % of total | Revenue | % of MA | % of total |
| MA, PROS | 34 | 35% | 9% | 6,723 | 82% | 47% | $146,175 | 75% | 41% |
| MA, non-PROS | 64 | 65% | 16% | 1,469 | 18% | 10% | $48,039 | 25% | 13% |
| Non-MA | 299 | 0% | 75% | 6,239 | 0% | 43% | $165,782 | 0% | 46% |
| **TOTALS** | **397** | **100%** | **100%** | **14,431** | **100%** | **100%** | **$359,996** | **100%** | **100%** |

These group rides constituted a large part of the Consortium’s Medicaid service delivery—82% of all our Medicaid trips, 75% of Medicaid revenue, and approximately 40% of total program revenue (see table below). The loss of this business may have significant impacts on our ability to meet the transportation needs of Columbia County residents, including both Medicaid enrollees and non-enrollees.

Adirondack Cab Co. “won” these group rides through a bid process initiated by the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), which oversees Medicaid Transportation, and managed by Medical Answering Services, or MAS, the state’s contracted Medicaid Transportation Manager. The bid process trumps the Medicaid provision called “freedom of choice” which permits enrollees to select their preferred transportation provider.

Since this has transpired, we have done a few things:

* Visited directly with our elected officials in Albany (Lopez, McLaughlin, Barrett, Marchione and Amedore) to advise them of the situation and request their assistance in advocating for policy changes at NYSDOH. Subsequent to those visits, I provided a one-page overview and sample letter to their offices (see attached).
* Estimated the potential financial impact to the program. At this time, we project a change in unrestricted net assets of ($33K) and a net cash flow loss of $29K, though we will undoubtedly find that we must update these numbers to reflect actual revenues and expenses in the weeks since the loss of standing orders. Happily, we have a strong cash position and healthy fund balance to help us absorb this loss.
* Started to explore our options, including different service models, fees, etc., in the interest of ensuring that the program not only survives the current challenge but is viable in the long term.

**Board and Community Relations**

* On Thursday, February 23rd, I spoke to the members of Greenport Seniors
* On Friday February 24th, I attended an event sponsored by the Greene County Sheriff’s Office, where we received $2K+ raised by them through “Forget to Shave February” to benefit the Greene Co. Cancer Fund.
* My membership in the CMH Board of Trustees has been ratified by Albany Medical Center. I participated in two days of orientation on Monday, March 13th and Thursday, March 23rd and attended my first board meeting on Monday, March 27th.
* On April 4th, Chelly Hegan, President/CEO from UHPP and a Consortium Board member, and I are speaking about national health care policy and the implications for rural health
* Board member updates: Leitha Pierro has submitted a letter of resignation effective 4/1.

**Program Planning**

* Our Opioid Epidemic Response Plan was approved by the Health and Medical Committee last week and will hopefully be approved by the full Board of Supervisors on April 12th. We are working with Joe Fillippone of Project SafePoint and Supervisor Bill Hughes to offer a Narcan training to the Supervisors before their meeting.
* We are also involved in planning Narcan trainings for restaurant owners, managers and staff.
* We have been meeting with a group intent on supporting Chatham Cares 4U and building other capacities for supporting individuals in pursuit of treatment.
* We have also been meeting with a group, led by Commissioner Gibson at DSS, about a housing initiative

**Policy and Strategy**

* I attended the Rural Health Policy Advocacy Day, organized by the New York State Association for Rural Health, on March 7th, where I met with Assemblymembers Lopez, McLaughlin, and Barrett and Senators Amedore and Marchione. I advocated for the restoration of the monies to the Cancer Services and Rural Health Network programs following the cuts proposed in the Governor’s budget. I also spoke about the recent changes to the Consortium’s transportation program and subsequently followed up with their offices.

**Resource Development**

* We continue to await a response to the proposal we submitted to OASAS on December 13th in response to the Community Coalitions RFA.
* We continue to await a response to our application for ongoing financial support for the Greene County Community Cancer Fund from the Bank of Greene County Charitable Foundation.
* Our work plan, budget and budget justification for the next and final year of funding from the Rural Health Network Development Program (RHN) has been approved.

**Fiscal Management**

* The annual external audit of financial statements and state and federal tax returns will be ready for review by the Entire Board at its annual meeting on April 5th.

**Personnel Management**

* Susan Long started as our part-time Fiscal Clerk on Thursday, March 23rd.
* Susan Ortabas, our Office Receptionist and Program Assistant, returned to work on April 3rd.
* The search for a Youth Engagement Coordinator within Tobacco continues…

**Upcoming events**

* Women in Business Event sponsored by the Greene Co. Chamber on 4/13; vacation week of April 17th