

Meeting Minutes

Eastern Oregon Coordinated Care Organization

Wheeler County Local Community Advisory Council

Tuesday, November 19, 2019 5:30 – 7:30 PM

Jeanne E. Burch Building

401 Fourth St. Fossil, OR 97830

LCAC Attendance: **Anne Mitchell**, Chair WC LCAC; **Candy Humphreys**, Frontier CASA & WC LCAC (via phone); **Susan Moore**, WC LCAC & Asher Community Health Center; **Colleen Grayson**, Secretary WC LCAC; **Matt Davis**, Coordinator, WC LCAC (via phone); **Jeanette Laite**, WC LCAC; **Ellie Bray**, WC LCAC

Guests: **Marci McMurphy**, GOBHI; **Kaleen Cheney**, DHS; **Torie Simmons**, Fossil resident & prospective member; **Keys Donnelly**, Fossil resident & prospective WC LCAC member

Call to Order: Anne called the meeting to order.

Introductions: Members and guests introduced themselves. Everyone shared some Holiday traditions that they and their families enjoy.

Public Comment: Torie announced an event that her support group will be hosting in December. The event is open to the public and will highlight the connection between mental and physical health. It will include an on onsite massage therapist, snacks and present valuable information to anyone interested in participating. The event will be held at 680 Main St. Fossil, Oregon on December 6th and will run from 5:00 PM - 7:30 PM.

Matt passed on an invitation from Wheeler County to all WC LCAC members to attend the Wheeler County Christmas party on 12/13/2019 from 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM at the Wheeler County Courthouse 701 Adams St., Fossil, OR.

Letter of Resignation, Crystal Rey: Anne shared the letter of resignation submitted by Crystal Rey, the WC LCAC Treasurer. Crystal feels that she is no longer able to dedicate the time

required to participate fully in the WC LCAC but expressed her continued support for the group and promised to help in any way that she can. Anne asked that we accept her resignation send that information to the County Court. She also asked that Matt draft a letter from the Council thanking Crystal for her service. Matt agreed to do so and asked if an official motion is needed to accept a member resignation. Anne replied that no motion is necessary.

Treasurer Vacancy: The group briefly discussed the need to fill the now vacant Treasurer position. Anne asked for nominations.

Susan **MOVED** to **NOMINATE** Candy Humphreys for the position of WC LCAC Treasurer.

Colleen **SECONDED** the motion.

Candy accepted the nomination under protest after no other member agreed to take on the Treasurer roll.

VOTE: Ayes 7 - Nays 0

Frontier VeggieRx Update: Marci presented the most recent data from the Frontier VeggieRx program in Wheeler County. She stated explained the numbers as presented and concluded that the program is continuing to pick up steam and that there is room for continued growth. Marci shared some very positive comments from participants. Colleen stated that from her perspective the program is being very well received by the community and is conferring true benefit to consumers and local businesses.

Marci expressed confidence that the remaining supply of vouchers allotted for distribution in Wheeler County will be sufficient to run the program through March of 2020. She explained that the new grant, should the WC LCAC vote to continue the Frontier VeggieRx Program, would be able to fund distribution starting in April 2020 thus avoiding an undesirable gap in service between the two grant periods.

Anne asked if the prescribers are keeping track of which communities participants are from. Coco replied that she is doing so.

Marci reported that vendor participation in Wheeler County has been great. Only one potential vendor in the County has declined to participate in the program. Colleen paraphrased a comment from Joe McNeil of the Fossil Mercantile who has found the program to be extremely helpful as it has greatly increased produce sales allowing him to diversify stock and get better prices through volume purchasing.

The group engaged in a discussion of the potential utility of recruiting more prescribers for the program. Marci cautioned against the confusion that could result from having too many prescribers especially as it pertains to reporting requirements and budgeting of available vouchers in order to ensure program continuity. All members of the Council and community partners were encouraged to promote the program and refer interested participants to existing prescribers.

Anne expressed concern that home bound patients may be underserved. Colleen responded that she has coordinated with home health workers who help facilitate the program amongst the home bound population. These workers are able to leverage their existing relationships with their patients to promote/de-stigmatize the program and deliver vouchers or produce to their patients. Colleen does the screening and reporting in these instances but relies on the home health workers to provide a convenient and comfortable point of contact for home bound participants. Marci expressed support for this procedure. Anne stated that this kind of model, using ‘promoters’ with an existing level of familiarity with potential participants could help overcome the social stigma barrier that may be preventing some folks from undertaking the screening process.

Anne asked if it would be possible to supply vouchers to the three Senior Meal Sites in order to help promote the program amongst the elderly population and also to help the program lower operating costs. Marci expressed concern that in doing so we may not be able to measure the benefit of vouchers donated to Senior Meal Sites since there would be no individual tracked as having received the vouchers. This is a reporting requirement of the grant program. Health outcomes for Oregon Health Plan consumers who are FVRx participants are tracked in order to supply quantitative data to demonstrate the FVRx program’s efficacy. To the extent that this information is not collected the continuation of program funding may be jeopardized. Susan asked if WC LCAC will be presented with this data. Marci affirmed that she will work to make the data available to the Council when the collection and analysis process is complete. Marci continued that the data will be most telling in Harney County which limits program participation to OHP consumers and also gathers monthly weight and blood pressure information from two members of each household. Ellie asked if it would be possible for Marci to simply write a \$30 monthly check for each Senior Meal Site into the FVRx grant proposal. Colleen expressed general support for the idea of helping these organizations but brought up the fact that we may need to be cautious around how we refer to these entities if we will be asking for funding to support them. At least in Fossil, the ‘Meal Site’ is not restricted just to seniors and allows anyone to come and eat. She continued that she was told that they have been advised to discontinue the use of the word Senior in their title. Marci suggested that Troy and/or Paul McGinnis should be consulted on whether or not this concept makes sense under this particular (FVRx) grant program.

Anne asked for a more formalized avenue for program participants to provide feedback. Matt suggested creating a survey online. Anne suggested distributing a hardcopy with the vouchers twice a year.

Marci asked the council for a decision as to WC LCAC's participation in the FVRx program in 2020.

WC LCAC Frontier VeggieRx 2020: Anne asked for the total of the Community Reinvestment Dollars available to WC LCAC for 2020. Matt replied that as he was traveling he did not have that information on hand but would search it out after returning to Wheeler County.

(Coordinator's Note: The Community Benefit Initiative Reinvestment dollars available for the Frontier VeggieRx program in 2020 year total \$27,833.00)

Anne asked if there were any ideas that anyone would like to bring before the Council for alternative ways to spend these funds.

Colleen expressed support for continuing the FVRx program. She stated that getting the program off the ground had required significant effort and that, in her opinion, discontinuing it now when it had really started to take off would be counterproductive. Ellie mentioned that the WC LCAC has been aware of the impending need to make a decision on the FVRx program for some time. Since no different ideas have been brought to the table for consideration Ellie is in support of continued investment in the program. Matt mentioned that participants in this program have now "built it in" to their monthly budgets and routines. In his opinion, any alternative uses of the money would need to be of outstanding merit and fully planned out in order to warrant the disruption to the lives of program participants that discontinuation of FVRx would incur.

Anne said that at this point she would entertain a motion.

MOTION: Ellie **MOVED** to utilize all available 2020 WC LCAC Community Benefit Initiative Reinvestment dollars to continue the Frontier VeggieRx program in Wheeler County in 2020.

SECOND: Colleen seconded the motion.

Anne asked if there was any further discussion. Hearing none, she called for a vote.

VOTE: Ayes -7, Nays -0

Anne asked about the status of the Regional Frontier VeggieRx Advisory Council. WC LCAC had committed to send representatives in 2019 but no information about such a meeting was subsequently provided. Marci said that the program had proceeded smoothly throughout 2019

and no issues requiring the RFVRx Advisory Council to convene had arisen. However, WC LCAC would be asked to appoint members to the RFVRx Advisory Council again in 2020 should the need for policy making arise in that year. Anne said that a meeting of the Advisory Council may also have value in terms of information and idea sharing. Marci led the group in short discussion of the similarities and differences between administration of the FVRx program the four participant counties.

Colleen suggested following Harney County's lead by requiring a weight and blood pressure check at regular intervals as a condition of participation in the Wheeler County FVRx program. Susan offered to facilitate that via the Asher Clinic at no cost. The group agreed to revisit how this metric gathering aspect of the program could be best designed at the earliest opportunity.

Marci mentioned that because her labor costs for administering the program are covered by GOBHI the WC LCAC Community Benefit Initiative Reinvestment dollars are substantially leveraged to provide even more value to the community.

The group thanked Marci for all of her continued work on this program.

Next Meeting Location and Time: The Council discussed scheduling for the next meeting. It was decided not to hold a December meeting due to the potential for holiday conflicts. A meeting was scheduled for **January 28, 2020 at 5:30 PM -7:30 PM in Spray** (exact location TBD).

Anne declared the MEETING ADJOURNED