

**Summit County Dental Task Force
Meeting Minutes
April 11, 2007**

“Mission: To assure that all people in Summit County have access to dental care”

Members in attendance: Nancy Woolverton, Judy Burkett, Jennifer Film, Mike Smylie, Mary Agnes Kendra, Lori Johnsen, Lynn McNamara, Jim Lalumandier, Darlene Theodus, Paulette Kline, Penny Riley, Susan Gerberich, Lois Foster, Brenda Cox.

Darlene Theodus called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m. The minutes of the March 21, 2007 meeting were deferred as Lori Johnsen was unable to type the minutes due to an arm injury and cast.

After introductions and a welcome to Paulette Kline as the new Barberton City Health Commissioner, discussion centered around the announcement of the closure of the A.C.H.R. Dental Clinic, effective May 1st. Joyce Tate was unable to attend the Task Force meeting, but she had relayed information via a phone call to Mike Smylie.

Mike and Joyce had discussed the media attention given to the closure, but as yet, no financial support had been offered. Renee Green with Akron City Council's Health and Social Services Committee will look at the lease options with the Akron Health Department. Costs to run the clinic have been \$4-500,000 with little revenue from clients as the case load has been primarily self pay adults with minimum payment for services. Unfortunately, Medicaid eligible children and adults have been a small percentage of the payer mix. It was also felt A.C.H.R. would be open to discussions about an outside entity's resources to support operating the clinic, and their board would be including the dental clinic in the strategic planning now taking place. To the advantage of A.C.H.R., they are a FQHC, and receive an Enhanced Medicaid Reimbursement rate, and serve in a Dental Professional Shortage area. Dr. Lalumandier offered that the dental program at Case receives \$1,000,000 per year from foundations with no restrictions as far as direct care versus capital expenses, so that should also be a fund raising option. Lori reported with the closure, Akron is the only major metropolitan area in Ohio without a safety net dental clinic. Paulette intends to convene an emergency meeting with the other 2 health commissioners to address this critical issue. Lois offered the support of the United Way.

Round The Table Sharing

- Lynn reported the dental residency program is on target to begin July 1st at Summa's 95 Arch St. location. There will be 6 operatories with 2 residents rotating through at a time. Services will be Medicaid based, and a sliding fee for service as well. An open house will be announced a later date.
- Mobile Dentistry out of Michigan continues to be a presence in the county, seeing Medicaid children, doing prophys, but no restorative care, resulting in no available follow up care since dentists cannot bill for more x-rays.
- Lori said that local safety net clinics include Canton, Medina, Youngstown, and soon to be opened Ashland.
- Mary Agnes announced that Annette Mitzel has been formally appointed Director of the Center for Nursing at Akron U.

The next meeting of the Task Force will be at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 20, 2007 at SCHD.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Penny Riley