

Takoma Park Health Services Impact Committee

Minutes: May 24, 2007

Adopted xxx 2007.

The meeting convened at 7:00 pm at the Takoma Park Community Center

Present were committee members Joan Clement (arrived 8:05 pm) Trevor Delafield, Seth Grimes, Frederick Hoeflinger, Pat Loveless, Kermit Netteburg, Drew Sommers (departed 7:45 pm) Lois Wessel, and Joanne Wu, City liaison Venita George, and Josh Wright, a resident of Maple Avenue who may apply for committee appointment.

The committee agreed on an agenda:

- Report from Fred on his WAH and state meetings.
- Outreach/survey.
- Review of the last community meeting.
- Thoughts on another community meeting.
- Minutes/Open Meetings Act compliance.
- Next meeting date.

Fred met with with Maryland Medicare staff and with the Health Services Review Commission. He then met with WAH President Jere Stocks and Paul Nicholson, WAH vice president for finances. Fred reports that Maryland is a “waiver state” that puts charity care into a formula that is used to set future charge levels. There are no exceptions for non-included costs. There are factors for inflation and volume. Fred will go back in two weeks to talk to the “rates man.” WAH reported that bad debts and uncompensated care account for 8 2/3 % of charges, up from 8 1/3 % the year before. Budgeting in 2006 is \$252 million from patients, \$6.8 million in uncompensated care, \$15 million provision for bad debt. Prior year figures are \$247 million, \$4.2 million, and \$16 million; i.e., revenues were flat but expenses were up \$3 million.

Committee members, in reviewing WAH provided service-area maps, noted the need for “clarification” in setting area boundaries.

The committee discussed council needs, e.g., for information on survey cost and plans, to decide regarding assignment of site-planning functions to the HSIC.

The committee discussed the May 1 forum including the midwifery/birthing community presence.

Regarding the survey, the committee discussed translation, preference for on-line responses, steps to completion of the next draft and review by WAH and the council and the public. Seth will attempt to complete the latest draft by Sunday. Lois will look at the Survey Monkey on-line service. The committee will meet on June 6 to discuss the survey.

Someone from the committee would attend the next 3rd-Thursday pot-luck luncheon at the Franklin, 7620 Maple Ave, on June 21.

Minutes duties will be shared by committee members. Joanne will record minutes for the June 6 meeting. Josh and Joan will record minutes for July 11 and August 1 meetings, respectively.

The committee, via Venita, will ask to report to the city council on July 30.

The meeting adjourned around 9 pm.

Prepared by Seth Grimes.