

Archuleta County Public Health Department Transition Advisory Committee Meeting

June 19, 2023 Notes:

County Manager Comments:

- Walked through the 8th street building with IT. The building is larger than anticipated; it has 12 offices.
 - Some of the things identified, there is no fiber to the building, all their communications are done via century link phone lines.
 - Fiber is about a block away; installation is out to bid right now to get to the building. Estimated about \$17,000 for installation.
 - Internal wiring is relatively good to go.
 - SJBPH contracts out with an IT service in Durango.
 - Will have to do about 9 additional computer work stations. WIC computer is due to be upgraded in October.
 - Did reach out to new interim director for SJBPH, looking as having Ashley located at the building. Would like an admin assistant.
 - Meeting with CDPHE is next week.
 - Sally asked: what is the furniture situation. Derek does not think we will need to upgrade most of the furniture. These things will be covered in this year's budget.
- Provided a conditional offer to a water quality person who is from SJBPHD.

County Public Health Director Comments:

- Looked at CDC prevention grant, looks like it is a flow through to CDPHE. Ashley will check on this with CDPHE at the next meeting next week.

New Business:

- A. Axis- Ricardo Martinez, Director; Jeanne Marotta, RN; Challis Gottman, Reproductive Health Manager.
 - a. Title X umbrella is a federal program that is oriented towards contraception and conception/family planning. STI testing and provide care for women who are trying to conceive. Colorado has a very liberal state law around age of consent for contraception. No age limit for people to access care. Covers women and men that are underinsured or uninsured. Provide consultation and evaluation as well as all birth control options. Well women exams are not under title X. If it is done in conjunction with the conversation for contraception and conception. Goal of title X is to not delay care or have barriers for care. 2 clinics are providing title 10, Archuleta and LaPlata.
 - i. Sally: Do you also do colposcopies? Response: Do not do colposcopies, they are not covered under title X.
 - b. Current hours Mon-Fri 8-5 except Wed 8-12.
 - c. We have a sliding scale at our clinic and have partners to cover some of these things.
 - d. Andrea: How did the title X funding switch? Response: Jan 2021, due to constraints of COVID – SJBPH asked Axis to take over title X.

- e. Have a telehealth option for people to connect with Axis at the 8th street building. Contraception can be done in its basic form. Should still be able to give out contraception at the 8th street location after telehealth appointment. Have certain options available.
- f. Sally: There was an MOU with Axis for mental, dental, and title X funding. Ricardo does not have much knowledge.
- g. 307 patients between both clinics for title X.
- h. Axis health system, function and role, federally qualified health center and a rural clinic. Main goal is work with care deficits. Offer services in all 3 primary areas: Dental, Mental Health and Health Services with a reduced fee/sliding scale fee and have payments for services. Have other partners that will also offer the sliding scale. Current push is to have a program for opioid use disorder, typically needs a prescription and recovery program.
- i. Dental clinic is the only Medicaid provider for dental services in Archuleta County.
- j. Immunizations for kids are also offered for free.
- k. Patients from New Mexico, Medicaid cannot be taken. Uninsured from New Mexico can receive care under the federal funds.
- l. Andrea: How can the health department work with the gaps that Axis sees. Response: Communication with the health department, interaction was less than desirable.
 - i. COVID testing was something they coordinated with, and many things were not going well.
 - ii. When took over title X funding, they were asked, Axis took it on and changed systems to make it work. They would get communication around complaints, but not hard data. Could not drill down on the barriers that were happening. Better linkages to care.
- m. Ashley: Can you provide other services via Tela Health at the 8th street location? Response: Have to collect lots of data for federal funds, so need them to come to the office for that.
 - i. Ashley: If the health department has a navigator to help get people to the appropriate services, could we help people fill out the paperwork and make appointments and possibly help coordinate transportation? Response: Yes we can coordinate with them to be able to do that and Wilderness journey's as well as one other company can provide transportation for Medicaid patients.
- n. Sally: How needed is the Colorado HIV and AID prevention program in our community? Response: They have several patients that are currently in the maintenance program here in Archuleta County. State of CO is experiencing a surge in HIV so this is important.
- o. Sally: What about the clean syringe exchange program. Response: Very needed
- p. TB program is man power heavy. Co management with infection disease with CDPHE.
- q. Andrea: When you see a food borne illness, do you coordinate with public health. Response: Axis reports to the state and then the state send on to the health department.
- r. Andrea: What are your challenges? Response: We are so focused on access to care, we are a wellness center. We are not an urgent care or emergency room. Can

accommodate some same day care, but not designed that way. How people choose to consume health care is difficult. Don't provide x-ray or other emergent needs.

- B. Sally presentation on Communicable Disease.
 - a. Immunization clinic for children, currently doing them at the clinic under the direction of the medical director.
 - b. Will the new medical director be comfortable continuing to provide these services under the general orders.
 - c. Women's wellness is also under communicable disease/breast exams and pap smears – much of this is
 - d. Find some local data on the clean syringe program
 - e. Find local data on the HIV/AIDS program
 - f. Medical reserve core – separate from AFS program, a core to just work with the health department.
 - g. TAC will review and bring feedback. Some of the things noted in her summary may changes based on services Axis provides.
- C. Additional Discussion
 - a. Discussion of budget – John will work to revise his existing budget to bring to the meeting next week. Discussion around position and wages that might be impacted or need to change.