

ST. JOHNS COUNTY CIVIC ASSOCIATION ROUNDTABLE

Agenda
for
MONDAY – MAY 8, 2006

Issues of County Interest – 9:00 am
Featured Program – 10:00 am

Main County Library
U&.S. 1 and San Carlos Avenue

: *Program* :
ST. AUGUSTINE RECORD
New Coverage in St. Johns County

Presenter:
Peter Ellis, Editor

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Plus Ongoing Current Issues
Committee Reports
Issues of County Interest

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ROUNDTABLE WEBSITE: www.sjcroundtable.org

Email: info@sjcroundtable.org

ST. JOHNS COUNTY: www.co.st-johns.fl.us

ST. JOHNS VISION: www.stjohnsvision.com

ROUNDTABLE INFORMATION:

Sacha Martin, Secretary, 501-5545: 133 Coastal Hollow Circle 32084
secretary@sjcroundtable.org

Chairman: Walter Rohrer (543-9809), **Vice Chair:** Henry Warner (462-3245)

Treasurer: Barrie Higgins (794-1599), **Secretary:** Sacha Martin (501-5545)

: Committee Chairs :

Membership: Walter Rohrer (543-9809) & Linda Oakley (471-7555)

Growth Management: Marcy Silkebaken (273-8047)

Government & Budget: Dan MacDonald (273-5855)

Education: David Wiles (471-1896)

**ST. JOHNS COUNTY
CIVIC ASSOCIATION ROUNDTABLE
Minutes for April 10, 2006**

There were about 50 present-- including a wonderful representation from the Dr. Allicock's County Health Department and Dr. Colavito's County Mental Health/Social Services Department. Chairman Walter Rohrer was on vacation. The meeting was chaired by Henry Warner, Vice Chair. Treasurer's Report: \$2,802.93.

Program: **ALLIANCE ON HEALTH CARE
The Governor's New Medicaid Initiatives
Medicaid Pilot Project**

Presented by: **Heidi Fox, AHC Administrator, Health Systems Development
Roberta Kelley, Bureau Chief, Health Systems Development
(850) 487-2355 foxh@ahca.myflorida.com ; kelleyro@ahca.myflorida.com.
For further info --
http://ahca.myflorida.com/medicaid/medicaid_reform/index.shtml**

According to Florida's E-Budget website, Medicaid consumes nearly 25% of the state budget which limits resources for other priorities, and Medicaid spending is growing at an average of 13.4% per year. At the present rate it could be 59% of the State Budget by 2015. Incentives for improving quality are lacking. The need for Medicaid reform is a system with predictable growth where patients determine their healthcare needs and taxpayer dollars are used effectively, and where there is competitive administration.

AN OVERVIEW WAS PRESENTED BY ROBERTA KELLEY.

Medicaid Reform was authorized by the state legislature (S.B.838) in May 2005, after which waivers were approved in December 2005. There will be pilot program trials in Duval and Broward counties beginning this July, which may expand to Baker, Clay and Nassau counties within a year. After adjusting the program from the pilot experience, legislative approval will be needed for a statewide application.

Medicaid is NOT a change in who is eligible to receive Medicaid. The Medicaid budget will not be cut, and in fact will continue to grow each year. The state will not limit medically necessary services for pregnant women or waive Early and Periodic Screening Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) for children. And the State will not increase cost sharing requirements.

Key Elements of Reform are: * New options and choices like customized plans, opt-out, enhanced benefits. * Financing can be premium based, with risk-adjusted premiums, and with a comprehensive and catastrophic component. *The delivery system will be a coordinated system of care for PSNs (Provider Service Networks) and HMOs, where HMOs are "capitated" and PSNs are fee-for-service up to three years and then capitated.

Customized Plans will have benefits for Medicaid eligible individuals, a variety of plan choices, and increased access to care. There will be the ability to select a plan that best meets needs, which must provide coverage of all mandatory services and all optional services required by plan enrollees. The plan may vary in scope, amount and duration for some benefits. It may cover services not traditionally covered by Medicaid.

The Evaluation of Customized Plans has two data-driven components – (a) Actuarial equivalence, or how does the value of proposed benefits compare to historical Medicaid for a target population, ensuring overall financial value of benefits is appropriate, and (b) The plan is sufficient to meet medical needs, that medical services are provided at sufficient levels to serve the target population, and the plan covers medical service needs.

Opt-Out is where (1) a recipient can choose to enroll in an employer sponsored health insurance instead of a Medicaid certified plan, (2) where self-employed individuals can purchase private insurance, (3) where Medicaid will pay employee share of employer sponsored premiums, (4) where individuals with access to employer-sponsored insurance may opt out at any time.

Enhanced Benefits are a pool of funds set aside to encourage recipients to have defined "healthy behaviors." Recipients can earn access to "credit" dollars from the pool. Earned credits can be used to purchase health related services and may be used during 3 years following the end of Medicaid eligibility.

Risk Adjusted Rates. Certain conditions (e.g., AIDS, asthma, diabetes) and certain pharmaceutical use is linked using historical statistical models to future health costs. Individuals will be assigned a "risk

score” which relates to the premium based on predicted needs. These rates will be phased in during the first 2 fiscal years

Benefit Component Choices. Recipients can have a chosen set of benefits with Comprehensive and Catastrophic components and continuous coverage of benefits. Comprehensive Care covers the cost of most Medicaid services.

Pre-Implementation Activities will be continued outreach and education, putting a pilot plan in place and reviewing it, developing benefits, choices and payment systems.

PROVIDER SERVICE NETWORKS (PSNs) was presented by Heidi Fox.

Under reform, beneficiaries will have a choice of plans – PSNs, HMOs or other licensed insurers. A PSN is a “network established or organized and operated by a health care provider, or group of affiliated health care providers, which provides a substantial proportion of the health care items and services under a contract directly through the provider or affiliated group of providers.” It arranges with health care providers to “assume all or part of the financial risk on a prospective basis for the provision of comprehensive health services.” The PSN is required to manage all care on behalf of enrollees and “will have a network of providers under contract to manage all covered services.”

How will the PSN be financed? Two options for reimbursement: (1) Reimbursement to the PSN on a fee-for-service or prepaid basis, or (2) reimbursement by the agency on a prepaid basis exempt from Parts I and III of Chapter 641 which must meet financial reserves, quality assurance and patient rights requirements. Claims for PSN enrollees will be submitted through the PSN to the Medicaid fiscal agent who will pay providers under a reconciliation process that measures paid claims against a capitation rate. The difference is distributed to the PSN, which will also be paid a monthly administration fee advance. The PSN can market to a target population under established guidelines.

For the pilot programs, there is a monthly administrative payment to PSNs and they may request a one time advance of \$300,000 to be repaid monthly over the life of the contract. The legislature may allocate additional start up funding. Funding for rural PSN start up costs of \$600,000 have been proposed. “Under the requirement for cost effectiveness, any payments to the PSN including administrative payments, case management fees and medical claims paid on behalf of the enrollees are factored into the evaluation of cost effectiveness.”

ROUNDTABLE BUSINESS

Education Committee – David Wiles, Chair

Ken Bryan (Pelican Reef) and Bob Golitz (Marsh Landing) are serving on the committee. We will be looking at the most recent audit of the school district. The school budget is more than 50% higher. Immediate needs because of growth are for capital construction and transportation. School Board meetings are communicating progress. The donated Nocatee site near Davis Park has finally been selected for the new Ponte Vedra High School. Nocatee had agreed to provide land for a public and a private High School and a total of 8 school sites; however Nocatee wanted to place schools in the center of each of its town centers. The School Board needed to put one as far East as possible to serve Ponte Vedra.

FCAT tests originally were diagnostic but they have evolved into something else. 14 of the 67 Counties have a grade of A, but what does this really mean in terms of 10th grade readiness? How are students actually classified? Crucial operating decisions are being made based on FCAT results.

The County School Board still needs to re-examine the validity of the ratio now being used for number of prospective students per household for forecasting. It was revised, but not enough, and certain geographic areas like the Northwest have higher numbers of children per household. Commissioner Rich reported that every new homeowner buying in a PUD or DRI will receive a letter from the School Board stating that their children may have to be bused. **Q: Where I grew up in Massachusetts, all schools were three stories high, with no elevators. Why won't they do that here?** Possible Answer: For safety, there are supposed to be exterior doors, and it is cheaper to build a breezeway than a hall way [although it is cheaper to heat/cool a more compact school in the future].

Growth Management – March Silkebaken, Chair

Silverleaf and Ashford Mills developments were approved. The total number of unbuilt homes in the approved inventory is now close to 85,000. Former Commissioner Meiszer got calls from new homeowners who did not know they were in a Community Development Taxing District. The CDD authorizes the developer to borrow money, but it is the residents who pay it back in the future; therefore it is the new residents and not the developer who is providing required infrastructure. It was mentioned that the Comprehensive Plan is coming up for review. A proposal would be to include a request so that PUDs and DRIs are encouraged to donate land for schools and for other public purposes. Ellen Whitmer suggested that Florida Statute F.S. 163 be read closely (www.myflorida.com). She also mentioned the Regional

Government concept. The Regional Transportation Authority can levy up to 3 mils of tax, and the public has no say in this.

Budget & Finance – Mary Kohnke

The Committee also has Walter Rohrer, Dan MacDonald, Roger Van Ghent attending budget hearings. The cost of installing and repairing roads has escalated dramatically, perhaps up 65% over a year or two ago. Therefore the transportation infrastructure backlog is also increasing and the number of projects planned cut back. After Joe Vonasek left as head of the Finance Department, there were no targeted department questions asked during the public hearings. The new director, Doug Timms, says he does the questioning in private. Nick Meiszer said that the Budget Process is set out in great detail in the Florida Statutes. A balanced budget should be presented to the BCC.

Membership – Linda Oakley, Co-Chair

We are asking May Management for referrals to other homeowners associations which they manage. Barrie Higgins is working on updating the web site.

Hiring of an Attorney for St. Johns County

The appointment should be the result of a general search for a Florida Bar Certified attorney, rather than an internal appointment. The process is flawed. The Roundtable should request that a citizen screening committee be appointed to assist in the process to help provide an impartial selection and do so at public comment. ***Resolution made, seconded and unanimously passed: (See Below)***

Following is a Report from RT Secretary Sacha Martin, from Presentation made before BCC April 18.

To The St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners:

At our meeting on April 10, the Roundtable passed the following Resolution, which is a suggestion and proposal to assist the Board of County Commissioners in their search for a new County Attorney. Appointing a Committee without conflict of interest may help the BCC provide a fair and objective system with standards of impartial selection where everyone is treated fairly.

“The Board of the St. Johns County Civic Association Roundtable recommends to the St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners that they appoint a CITIZEN’S COMMITTEE without conflict of interest to SCREEN APPLICANTS for the position of County Attorney and then to RECOMMEND THREE NOMINEES to the Board of Commissioners.”

Commissioner Rich asked if the Roundtable could submit suggested names for members of a Citizens Committee. This request was not affirmed by the entire BCC, but it appeared that suggestions would be welcome. The Board commented that a selection committee should have some professional attorneys on it to evaluate professional standards, which normal citizens don’t have the capability to do. Such a committee should have at least 5 members, preferably 7. Also there was a question of being able to research whether resumes are accurately reported. In the search for County Administrator there were 10 final resumes and many had “discrepancies”.

The Commissioners deeply regretted the action on this issue and stated that there was no racial issue here, but a procedural one, and a series of mistakes had been made. They asked retiring County Attorney Bosanko to draft Policies and Procedures for a good independent evaluation.

Mr. Hunt spoke on his behalf and said that he still feels he is the best candidate for the job with 27 years in the Florida Bar. He also said that he did not think the present policy of rotating the Deputy County Attorney was right, that the attorney with the most experience should always be number two.

Commission Chair Bryant wanted to be certain they could go forward with an outside search or whether they were bound by a contract first offered to Michael Hunt, whether once offered could be retracted, and asked Mr. Bosanko to research this. The BCC later voted 3 to 2 to conduct a statewide search.

The Roundtable should poll its membership for suggested names for a Selection Committee that would be impartial, and this list should include attorneys.