



December 11, 2014

Jean Galleher
Chair, Health Committee
League of Women Voters Umpqua Valley

RE: Unanswered from December 8, 2014 Health Care Forum

Dear Jean,

Thank you for the invitation to present at your recent health care forum. We appreciate the opportunity to address questions and concerns relating to our local health care. I am encouraged by the interest and enthusiasm of so many individuals and organizations to work toward solutions in health outcomes. Improving the health of Douglas County will best be accomplished through collective impact. By working together, I am optimistic in the future health of our families, our friends and our neighbors.

My responses to the unanswered questions from the forum are highlighted on the attached document.

Thank you again for this opportunity.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Dannenhoffer', is written over a light blue background.

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“Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success.”

~ Henry Ford

UNANSWERED QUESTIONS FROM 12/8 FORUM

FOR JANET HOLLAND:

Does CHA plan or have a plan for rural/homeless mental health outreach?

FOR DAWNELLE MARSHALL:

What does the public health department need in terms of community support in order to continue to provide services as a county entity? How can the public help?

How can the Commissioners be persuaded to adequately fund public health like other essential services?

FOR DR. BOB DANNENHOFFER:

If UHA, DCIPA, ARHITRAVE, CHA are all related, what measures of consumer protection exist(i.e. grievances, appeals, service protection) especially for those with limited capabilities and are there any checks and balances.

Oregon has a very detailed and consumer centric process for dealing with grievances and appeals. We follow this process exactly.

Why does UHA deny pain medications and other psychiatric medications in Douglas County to OHP patients when other CCO's like Trillium in Lane County pay for them? Same diagnosis, same codes, but approved in one county, but denied here. Seems like blatant discrimination all for the sake of financial profit.

The improper use of narcotics has been a major concern for Oregon and the CCO's have been encouraged to rationalize the use of narcotics. Following guidelines by outside expert groups, recommendations from our opioid use committee and in conjunction with other CCOs, we have instituted limits on the use of narcotics. These limits have nothing to do with financial profits; the goal is to reduce risk factors and avoid the misuse of these drugs.

I recently heard at a conference in Portland that doctors in the Inter Community CCO agreed to take a 5% cut in fee reimbursements so that the CCO could fund innovative programs. Would the Douglas County DCIPA doctors agree to something similar.

Umpqua Health Alliance already has an innovation fund that has been used for various projects, including the Extended Care Clinic at UCHC and the Kick Start program in Douglas County.

The Coordinated Care Legislation of 2012 only included coverage for individuals on the Oregon Health Plan. Does UHA plan to cover additional populations as well?

At this time, we only provide services for the Medicaid population, but would consider expanding to other populations.

FOR ALL:

There are very few nutritionally healthy food choices in our schools. What is being done to address this.

Umpqua Health Alliance is working with many partners throughout Douglas County to promote healthy food choices, farmers' markets and community gardens. This past summer we provided matching funds for the Fresh Funds Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which is aimed at making fresh, locally grown produce accessible to everyone. The matching program funds a dollar-for-dollar match for all SNAP funds redeemed at the Umpqua Valley Farmers' Market, up to a \$5 match per person per market day. In addition, our summer "Kick Start Douglas County" included many educational workshops on how to shop, prepare and plan for healthy meals and we promote shopping tours sponsored by Umpqua Community Veg Education Group (UC Veg). We include healthy recipes in our Member Newsletters, along with seasonal gardening tips. We regularly highlight healthy food related events, stories, and champions in our monthly "Ask a Health Question" publication (*The News-Review*), "Spotlight on Your Health" (KPIC-TV), and "Talking Health (KQEN Radio).

Are you aware about the "glitch" in the Affordable Care Act that makes health care quite affordable for the worker through his/her employer, but has a much higher cost for family coverage. Do you see a solution to this.

While overall the ACA has been a great advance, there are a number of "glitches" that our congress should address.

There is a big difference between having health insurance coverage and being able to afford to pay for that coverage. How many individuals in Douglas County still do not have health insurance coverage and why do you think that they are still not covered.

We think that about 5% of people in Douglas County are currently uninsured for various reasons. Some are undocumented immigrants and are not eligible for Medicaid or the ACA, some are young and healthy people who feel they don't need insurance, some have just not signed up and others have fallen through the family coverage crack.

There have been many changes in health care in Douglas County in recent months and years. In light of all these changes, do you think that residents of this county are served better by the health care community now than they were 3-5 years ago? Why or Why not?

Some things are much better. Our rate of those without insurance is much lower and we have far more primary care doctors, but our rates of smoking and obesity continue to be stubbornly high. We know that poverty is a strong social determinant of health, which is why we have chosen this as a focus and have sponsored educational trainings to increase awareness of the culture of poverty.

How does your organization measure individual positive health changes/outcomes? Does your organization compensate when people are healthy?

We have many measures of individual health outcomes. We are not permitted to financially compensate or penalize individuals for health outcomes.

Do the four presenters support a single payer system(i.e. one payment source but still private doctors). This system works in other parts of the world. Why not in Douglas County?

The discussion of a single payer system is quite complicated. After all, the most comprehensive single payer system is the VA and that has not worked well. There is no good model for a national single payer system although some experiments are being conducted in other states. It will be interesting to see how that turns out.

The CDC, APHA, AARP, PTA, American Academy of Pediatrics Oregon Health Authority and others have all spoken out on the necessity of physical activity for good health. How will your organization help promote improvements in our communities in order to make active transportation such as biking and walking safe and convenient?

Other than not smoking, we think that getting more active would be the single most effective health intervention. We have been an active supporter of the Bike and Walk to school programs and a prime mover behind the Kick Start Douglas County program.

We have been placing emphasis on treating symptoms. When will your organization begin to treat the roots of disease rather than the symptoms and use programs like the Kaiser whole food plant based nutrition diet?

We would like all patients in our community to eat better, stop smoking and exercise more and support numerous programs to help our members make those changes.