AMARILLO HOSPITAL DISTRICT
INDIGENT CARE AND FUNDING PRIORITIES COMMITTEE
CITY OF AMARILLO, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
JULY 13, 2010

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE
Dr. Paul Proffer, Chair
Ms. Liz Hughes
Ms. Claudette Dove
Ms.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE

Matt Richardson	City of Amarillo, Public Health, Director
Hector Mendoza	City of Amarillo, Public Health, Assistant Director
Dean Frigo	City of Amarillo, Assistant City Manager
Evelyn M. Padilla	Recording Secretary, City of Amarillo, Public Health

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Sharon Oxendale	NWTHS
Debra Cain	TTUHSC
Jackie Galvick	TTUHSC
Rick Love	Regence Health Network Dental Clinic
Derek Martin	Regence Health Network Dental Clinic

Dr. Proffer established a quorum and called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m.

Item 1: Introduction of Guests. Dr. Proffer welcomed the guests.

Item 2: Approval of the June 29, 2010 Minutes. Dr. Proffer presented the minutes of the June 29, 2010. Being no additions or corrections, motion to approve the minutes was made by Ms. Dove, seconded by Ms. Hughes and carried 3-0.

Item 3: Presentation of the Proposed AHD Budget. Mr. Frigo presented the proposed AHD budget noting the budget has been revised to include the Department of Public Health's revised budget and request of $873,000. Mr. Frigo stated the year will begin with about $224 million in assets, $9.1 million in revenue and $145,000 in Operating. The largest expenses in the budget are the Indigent Care Contract and the Pension Plan. The Tobacco Fund will begin the year with $346,000 and the Pedi, TFA, and Dental request is $1,670,000. Mr. Frigo reported the Tobacco Fund will end the year with a deficit of $980,000.

Item 4: Review and Consider Continuation of the Contract for the RHN Dental Clinic. Ms. Oxendale introduced Mr. Rick Love and Mr. Derek Martin from RHN. She stated they would answer questions board members had as a follow-up of the previous meeting.
Dr. Proffer asked if there were enough dentists to provide services for the anticipated increase number of patients. He stated with no history of an increase in patients, the board wants to make sure that RHN is able to retain enough dentists to provide dental services. Mr. Love responded that there have been three full-time dentists since August and two dentists who are PRN; however, he stated that he could not guarantee how many dentists he would have from one day to another.

Mr. Love stated that RHN is not projecting an increase in patients nor does the proposal reflect an increase. What they are projecting is an increase in the cost to the hospital district, which is a result of a change in the methodology by how RHN bills NWTHS for services. He stated the new billing methodology is about a 23% increase or about $103.00 an encounter. Previously, services have been billed based on the hospital districts

patients as a percent of total. The proposed request is to bill services based on the hospital district patient charges as a percent of total which will reflect the charges that patients incur as a result of extensive work that is being done.

Dr. Proffer stated that it was the boards understanding that when RHN first approached the board for funding that by having indigent patients it would open up the possibility of obtaining grants. He asked if RHN's approach has changed. Mr. Love stated the approach has not changed and that he did not recall stating that it would allow RHN to bring more money in. He reported that RHN currently receives about $4 million a year in federal funding to provide indigent care or care to the underserved/uninsured. He stated if the hospital district decided not to fund the dental clinic the indigent patients would be eligible to apply for a sliding fee discount based on the federal funding that is already being received. Mr. Frigo asked if RHN had the amount of discounts that AHD patients receive. Mr. Love stated that the dental fee is based on the 2009 American Dental Association Fee Schedule and that that the district is paying about 45%. If the district did not fund the clinic a typical patient on the sliding fee scale would pay 50% of the total dental charges for that day's visit. Mr. Frigo asked for the amount that is being waived. Mr. Love responded that during an eight month period there is about $238,000 worth of charges, of that, the district pays $106,900 which is about 55% of the total charges.

Dr. Proffer asked Mr. Frigo if the district chose not to fund the dental clinic if that would mean a $50,000 savings to the district. Mr. Frigo replied that the budget year has been tough and if there was a place to cut it would be either the requested increase or the whole program. Mr. Love pointed out that if the district did cut the program a patient could be charged thousands of dollars depending on the work that is done. He added that RHN would not be willing to make changes to their proposal. Dr. Proffer asked Mr. Love if it was the boards understanding that if the request is not approved then that would end the Indigent Care Partnership with RHN. Mr. Love responded that he thought that would be the rational end but, did want to remind the board that RHN is charged with providing services without regard to one's ability to pay. Dr. Proffer stated the district should not be held hostage to increases every year. Mr. Love responded that it is not RHN's intention to hold the district hostage but the intent is to make sure that the allocation, commitment of resources is consistent with RHN's mission. Mr. Love reminded the board that RHN is not asking for a $50,000 increase; their request is for a change to the billing methodology.

Mr. Love stated that if the current contract could be amended so that RHN is not providing certain types of services that are costly it would be financial viable for them. Mr. Frigo stated that when Texas Tech ran the dental clinic the client was responsible for pre-paying for lab work that was preformed for patients needing dentures. Dr. Proffer asked if the budget is kept at its current level if RHN would be able to work on cutting some of the specialized services or have the patient pay for services. He added if it appeared that the burden was too much on the patients then the district would revisit the request. Mr. Love stated that he was willing to present a proposal to the board.

Motion to continue the current amount of funding for RHN Dental Clinic as made by Ms. Hughes, seconded by Mr. Dove and carried 4-0.

Item 5: Public Comments. There were none.

Item 6: Adjournment. Being no further business to come before the board, Dr. Proffer adjourned the meeting at 8:15 a.m.

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Chairman

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Recording Secretary