



SAINT PAUL – RAMSEY COUNTY
COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES

ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE SAINT PAUL CITY COUNCIL AND THE RAMSEY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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MINUTES
COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
February 3, 2010

MEMBERS PRESENT

Nancy Appleton
Patricia Carlson
Hanna Cooper
Marissa Hendrickson
Thomas Kottke
Bruce Larson
Christopher Mullin
Regina Rippel
Paula Robinson
Jack Rossbach
Kerri-Elizabeth Sawyer
Esther Tatley
Milo Thompson

STAFF/GUESTS

Jane Berg
Rob Fulton
James Gbala
Richard Ragan
Patty Seflow
Lori Wald

Communicable Disease Prevention and Control Jane Berg is the manager of the program and began the presentation with a program overview. The Preventive Health programs detect and manage communicable diseases, provide childhood and adult immunizations, promote positive sexual health behaviors, provide family planning, coordinate refugee health screening and provide medical advocacy to victims of sexual violence. The staff include nurses, nurse practitioners, physicians, medical assistants, clerks and health education program assistants. Staff members represent populations of color and several are bi-lingual. Services are provided in collaboration with other department sections and community agencies, including other Ramsey County Departments, the Minnesota Department of Health, schools, community clinics, and volunteer refugee agencies. The Preventive Health Section is coordinating its programs with SHIP, Feel Better Minnesota and STEPs.

Family Planning provides all medically accepted methods of birth control, including emergency contraception, physical exams including Pap tests; follow-up colposcopy; screening for sexually transmitted infections; walk-in pregnancy tests. Sliding fee based on income and ability to pay. Evening hours are available. Federally funded Title X Program- one of two in Minnesota. Planned Parenthood is the other and operates outside the metro area.

Immunization Clinic provides low cost immunization for infants, children and some adults who are uninsured, whose insurance does not cover immunizations, or those who are unable to access services. Walk-in services and evening hours are available. We provide H1N1 vaccinations at all immunization clinics and have conducted 500 since December. There is also a travel vaccination program.

Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention Program works with families in the community to provide case management and education for infants born to hepatitis B positive mothers in Ramsey County. Provides home visits to educate families on prevention of Hepatitis B transmission. The case load is now at 200 families. If

mom has hep B, the program helps prevent the baby from contracting hep B which can lead to chronic liver failure.

Refugee and Immigrant Health assure refugee screening and coordinate follow-up care and services. Complete vaccination supplement to I-693 forms. What is a refugee? Not a US citizen, but foreign born. They cannot return for a variety of reasons. Their status is determined prior to coming to USA. They receive an overseas medical examination and are encouraged to get additional screening in USA. There were 670 refugees to Ramsey County in 2008. We connect refugees to a primary care provider and then we do a 6 and 12 month follow-up. Currently, new refugees are coming from Burma. The cap for new refugees to the US in 2010 is 80,000.

Sexually Transmitted Infections HIV counseling and testing in Room 111 provides screening, diagnosis and treatment of sexually transmitted infections, and HIV counseling and testing. All services available on a walk-in basis and evening hours are available. Hennepin County has the “Red Door” clinic. A recent news article talked about the increase in disease in young men. The department conducts STD screening at the jail, workhouse and juvenile detention center. We encourage contacts to get tested at our clinic and we follow all HIPAA guidelines.

Sexual Offense Services (SOS) provides free, confidential services to victims of sexual violence, their families and other concerned persons.

Tuberculosis (TB) Control provides case management of active tuberculosis cases and latent tuberculosis infection. Education is provided to individuals, families, other agencies and the community. Services by appointment only. We conduct contact investigation for pulmonary infections. We go to worksite settings and we are good at interviewing. We diagnosis and treat people with latent TB infection and active TB. TB can occur in any organ of the body. There is an accurate blood test called QuantiFeron. Approximately 20% of Ramsey County TB in 2008 was resistant to standard drugs. TB can be “only a plane ride away.” Approximately, 1/3 of the world’s population has been infected with TB. Generally, close and prolonged contact is necessary to become infected. It is not easy to transmit TB.

Women’s Health Screening clinic for women age 40 and older provides free annual Pap tests and mammograms through The Sage Screening Program. This is a state-funded program. The CDC says these programs are greatest advancement to public health in 21st century.

Jane provided a vaccination schedule for adults.

Chair’s Report – Hanna reported on two topics. The first was that SHIP Coordinator’s will be meeting on February 12th to discuss programs and how to work together. The annual meeting was regarding how to create Blue Zones to improve health and longevity. The second topic was regarding encouraging smoke-free buildings in public housing. Brittany McFanden at ANSR will provide a draft resolution for the Ramsey County CHSAC to consider and pass.

Director’s Report – Rob Fulton stated that on February 17th the Robert Wood Johnson foundation would be publishing health rankings of counties within the state of Minnesota. Unfortunately, Rob predicted, Ramsey County would be in the lower 25% due to rates of poverty, population density, uninsured, foreclosures and other factors. The question will be how to discuss these issues with the County Board in an intelligent way in order to highlight areas of success and areas of needed improvement. How will the media play this? Unfortunately, many of criteria they used to measure health status are outside the realm of public health. The committee chair asked that the Department’s Public Information Officer present on this topic at the next meeting on March 3, 2010.

Adjournment at 7:20 pm.