

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA)
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COUNTY OF STOKES)
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OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS
STOKES COUNTY GOVERNMENT
DANBURY, NORTH CAROLINA
MAY 9, 2006

The Board of Commissioners of the County of Stokes, State of North Carolina, met for special session to discuss the proposed Stokes Health Services Alliance Strategic Plan in the Commissioners’ Chambers of the Ronald Wilson Reagan Memorial Building (Administrative Building) located in Danbury, North Carolina on Tuesday, May 9, 2006 at 6:00 pm with the following members present:

- Chairman Leon Inman
- Vice-Chairman Joe Turpin
- Commissioner Sandy McHugh
- Commissioner John Turpin
- Commissioner Jimmy Walker

County Personnel in Attendance:
Clerk to the Board/Interim County Manager Darlene Bullins

Stokes Health Services Alliance Board Members in Attendance:
Chairman Frank Duncan
President Doug Atkinson
Vice President Mike Kimel
Interim Secretary Darlene Bullins
Commissioner Sandy McHugh – Member
Mr. Crow McGee – Member

Other Alliance Attendees:
Lance Labine – Administrator –Stokes Rey. Mem. Hospital
Heather Hayes – Strategic Planner -NC Baptist Hospital
Director Meghan Shapiro – Outpatient Services-SRMH
Health Director Don Moore – Stokes County
Cathy Long – Director Stokes Opportunity Center/CenterPoint
Jim Graham – Central Piedmont Access II
EMS Director Monty Stevens

Chairman Leon Inman called the Special Session to discuss the proposed Stokes Health Services Alliance Strategic Plan.

Chairman Inman delivered the invocation.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT-GOVERNING BODY-PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Inman opened the meeting by inviting the citizens in attendance to join the Board with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Inman welcomed those in attendance for the special meeting.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT – GOVERNING BODY – PROPOSED STOKES HEALTH SERVICES ALLIANCE

Chairman Frank Duncan – Stokes Alliance expressed appreciation to the Board for the special session to discuss the proposed Stokes Health Services Alliance Strategic Plan. Chairman Duncan, on behalf of the Stokes Health Services Alliance, requested the Board's consideration for approval of the Strategic Plan.

Ms. Heather Hayes, Strategic Planner -NC Baptist Hospital has been working with the Health Alliance during the development of the Strategic Plan. Ms. Hayes briefly explained the process of getting to the final product- proposed Strategic Plan. Ms. Hayes explained the proposed Health Services Alliance Strategic Plan:

- The purpose of the Stokes Health Services Alliance Strategic Plan is to outline a strategy by which the Alliance can provide support for the health care initiatives of the following agencies/entities:
 - Healthy Carolinians of Stokes
 - Public Health Department
 - Mental Health
 - Stokes Reynolds Memorial Hospital
 - Emergency Medical Services
 - Central Piedmont Access II
 - Medical Manpower
 - WFUBMC/Novant Health
 - Hospice
 - Other Healthcare Providers

Ms. Hayes presented and discussed the following Ranked Action Item List developed at the recent Board Retreat held in January 2006:

Stokes HSA Planning Retreat
Ranked Action Item List
2/8/2006

1. Evaluate the most appropriate use of the three Stokes Reynolds health care facilities.
 - => Can they be used to house new services needed in the County that various agencies can provide?
2. Centralize and distribute ALL available Stokes County health care information.
 - => Healthy Carolinians can be used as a central point from which information can flow regarding available providers, health screenings, educational opportunities, etc.
 - =>Improved community knowledge of and access to **mental health services** among all populations (including coordination among the new providers)
 - i. Limiting patient confusion re: available services, providers, and locations
 - ii Challenge: to serve ALL parts of Stokes County
 - => Raise awareness of/increase access to services provided by **Hospice** of Stokes County for Stokes County patients in the Novant and Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center health systems.

- i. There are many benefits to providing hospice care close to home,
- ii. Would reclaim lost revenue for Stokes-Reynolds.

=> **Educational Program**

- i. Lunch and Learns throughout the County relating to the 5 Priority Health Issues

=> **Physical Activity Resource Guide**

- i. Assessment of county for opportunities and barriers to physical activity
- ii. Collection of updated information, development of brochure, and distribution

3. Provision of Emergency and Crisis Mental Health Services/Suicide Prevention

- ⇒ Implementation of Proposed Crisis Response Network
- ⇒ Continued Emergency Responder Training
- ⇒ Improved efficiency of Involuntary Commitment Process
- ⇒ Partners: Healthy Carolinians and CPA II, who has a goal of improving behavioral health service quality and access

4. FQHC in Stokes County

- => Potentially a joint venture with Stokes-Reynolds in Danbury

5. Decrease EMS unit response times

- => Restructure ambulance response districts and/or deploy additional units (Emergency Response vehicles, not ambulances)
- => Obtain EMS Model System Status.
- => Certify all EMS personnel to National Registry Standards.

6. Garner grassroots support of the Stokes HSA

- => Informing the citizens, eliciting their input, and getting their buy-in

7. Resources inventory and gap analysis for Stokes County

- => An inventory of ALL healthcare services in the County, not just Public Health
 - i. May include the Medical Manpower plan that has already been prepared
 - ii. Will involve a broad definition of "health," which is impacted by economic development, etc.

8. Pursue investigation of the feasibility for an outpatient clinic in King for eligible Stokes County veterans.

9. Dental Care

- => Providing access to Dental Care i.e. Dental Clinics/Bus at Health Fairs, Senior Centers and/or Health Department

10. Support a health care needs assessment of Stokes County veterans, in cooperation with the VMAC in Salisbury, NC.

11. Increase utilization of existing inpatient hospice beds in Stokes County.

12. Develop a communication strategy between hospitals, community providers and service organizations to facilitate improved access to healthcare services via the CPA II program.

- ⇒ Community Care Steering Committee
- ⇒ Medical Management Committee
- ⇒ Elect officials of these committees and formulate policy on their action and meeting frequency

13. Collaborate with State initiatives on management of Aged, Blind, and Disabled enrollees (CPA II).

=> This is a population that is new to the Medicaid program.

The Board discussed the following regarding the proposed Strategic Plan:

- Urgent need to get valuable health information out to the Public
- Ways to get the information out to the Public
- Explaining the Health Alliance to the Public
- Selling the Health Alliance to the Public
- Stokes Hospice being utilized by Stokes County citizens
- Mental Health services in Stokes County (Danbury, King)
- Mental Health Reform – the past, present and the future
- Alliance being a non-profit organization
- EMD Training for EMS and Communication
- Funding to be available through the Alliance that might not be funded by the County
- Non-profit Funding possibly being provided to County Departments that would otherwise not be available to County Departments
- Competition between the two major hospitals (NC Baptist and Forsyth)
- Need for Veteran Health Care Outpatient Clinic in Stokes County
- Using existing facility in Stokes County for VA Outpatient Clinic to possibly serve Stokes, Surry, Yadkin, and Rockingham Veterans

Commissioner Walker directed the following question to the Alliance members:

“Is there any chance that there is anything the Health Alliance is doing that will in anyway restrict or limit any options a Stokes County citizen has to any source of medical care?”

President Atkinson responded that the Alliance is trying to create “more options”

through greater communication and cooperation between all Health care providers in Stokes

County. Vice President Kimel also noted that services are being brought to Stokes County

instead of Stokes County going to the services (most likely Winston Salem). Vice President

Kimel also referenced the Stokes Health Services Alliance Mission statement:

- The Health Services Alliance, a non-profit organization, was established as a collaboration among the health care providers, county governments, and community of Stokes County, in conjunction with the partnership between North Carolina Baptist (NCBH) and Forsyth Medical Center (FMC) to expand health care access for rural populations in Stokes County. The Alliance is charged with exploring and recommending appropriate organizational models that will support quality, cost-effective sustainable community based health care in Stokes County. Models will be selected based on the health care priorities of the community and the availability of resources.

Commissioner Walker directed the following question to President Doug Atkinson

and Vice President Mike Kimel: “Why the County (government) should be involved with

Forsyth and NC Baptist Hospital”.

President Atkinson responded:

- Major health care assets in Stokes County
- Utilization of assets in the County and getting the most from those assets
- To partner and collaborate to help leverage assets in a better manner

- To help absorb losses in order to help keep Stokes Reynolds Memorial Hospital

Vice President Kimel responded:

- Critical in keeping the collaboration together, focused, and being successful
- County government involvement keeps the collaboration together

President Doug Atkinson briefed the Board on the next steps for the Alliance:

- Alliance has received its 501(c) (3) non profit status from IRS retroactive to July 8, 2004
- Non-profit status allows access to grants, donation, and special funding such as Kate B Reynolds, etc.
- Free Grant writing to be provided by NC Baptist
- Taking the information to the citizens in the County
- Assisting with getting the best available health care to all citizens of the County
- Reminder that this Alliance operates at the pleasure of the Board of Commissioners

President Atkinson concluded by requesting the Board of Commissioners endorse the submitted proposed Stokes Health Services Alliance Strategic Plan, which will allow the Alliance to begin work to help deliver the best available health care to all residents of Stokes County.

Vice Chairman Joe Turpin moved to approve and accept the Stokes Health Services Alliance Strategic Plan and Planning Retreat Ranked Item List. Commissioner John Turpin seconded the motion.

The Board discussed the motion to approve the proposed Strategic Plan.

Commissioner Walker expressed concerns regarding voting on the issue immediately. Commissioner Walker requested to postpone the vote until the next regular meeting in order to allow members to review the Strategic Plan which was given to the Board in February 06.

Chairman Inman reiterated voting on the issue at the next regular meeting in order to allow members to review the proposed Strategic Plan.

Commissioner McHugh expressed appreciation to NC Baptist and Novant Health officials giving up their time to work together to help the citizens receive the best health care available. Commissioner McHugh noted the need to vote on the issue immediately in order to allow the Alliance to get started on their goals.

Commissioner John Turpin expressed appreciation to the Alliance for their efforts to help access better health care for Stokes County residents.

Vice Chairman Joe Turpin expressed appreciation to the Alliance and both hospitals for working together provide better health care for Stokes County.

The motion carried (4-1) with Commissioner Walker voting against the motion.

Chairman Inman expressed appreciation to all those in attendance and the work that has been done to help provide better health care access to the citizens of Stokes County.

Chairman Frank Duncan concluded with the following:

- Being appointed as the citizen on the Alliance, I was not associated with either hospital or Board and had many questions as did Commissioner Walker and others
- Being on the Board has been a very educating experience to find out what the Alliance is really about and what is going on in the County regarding health care services
- No agenda at any meeting has been pushed by Baptist or Forsyth Hospitals
- Alliance plans to apply for grants to save tax dollars
- Pulling organizations together to apply to grants not otherwise available
- Everything that I have seen is positive
- In my opinion, Alliance is wanting to provide better health services to Stokes County residents

Chairman Inman expressed appreciation to all those in attendance.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Inman entertained a motion to adjourn the special session. Commissioner John Turpin moved to adjourn the special session. Commissioner Walker seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Darlene M. Bullins
Clerk to the Board

J. Leon Inman
Chairman