

**Regional Health Cooperative
Steering Committee Meeting
Tuesday, June 17, 2008
- MEETING NOTES -**

Present: Steve Healy, Darcie Paradies, Carol Buhlman, Linda Hines, Bill Warner, Pam Grove, Margi Miller, Jerry Chasteen, and William Rubin

The third meeting of the steering committee commenced at 8:02 a.m. on June 17th in Baldwin, Wisconsin.

Discussion centered around the June 4th teleconference with Randy Connour of Healthy Lifestyles (Green Bay area).

Operating Footprint/Counties Included in this Region

The committee reviewed a map of western, west central, and northwest Wisconsin.

Starting with the 10-county footprint of the Momentum organization (St. Croix, Pierce, Pepin, Polk, Dunn, Eau Claire, Chippewa, Barron, Clark, and Rusk) more counties were added, including Burnett, Washburn, Sawyer, Buffalo, Trempealeau, La Crosse, Monroe, and Jackson for a total of 18 (Note: The Healthy Lifestyles Cooperative in Green Bay was approved for an 18-county service area). The exact size of the proposed cooperative may be driven by insurance ratings and available coverage. The proposed 18-county region includes the La Crosse, Black River Falls, and Tomah areas.

Letter/Survey

To assess the interest in forming a cooperative, it was suggested that a letter be sent to the county-wide economic development directors (and/or extension agents or regional planning commissions) for re-distribution to businesses. The letter would outline discussions to date and include a potential timeline for roll-out, etc. Interested businesses would be asked to complete a short survey (are they interested? number of employees covered under a current plan? type of plan? increases over the last 3 years?, etc.). The communicate and survey will answer high-level questions that prospective carriers will have an interest in. Bill Rubin will take the lead in drafting the letter for review by others.

Bylaws/Name of Operating Entity

The committee reviewed the bylaws adopted by Healthy Lifestyles. Steve Healy will contact law firms in Madison for possible engagement. A suggested name of our operating entity was narrowed to Cooperative Health Choices of Western Wisconsin (CHC), and the roughed-up mission is: Working cooperatively to create health plan choices for Western Wisconsin. Pam Grove will expand on the mission.

The proposed plan is to get the bylaws adopted and filed, and thereafter, get the health cooperative set-up.

Timeline

A couple of committee members will work on a timeline (upcoming meetings, deadlines, Go-Live date, etc.). Pam Grove will take the lead. A suggestion was made to plan on March 1, April 1, or May 1 of 2009 as a possible transition date(s) for employers to opt-out of existing coverage and into the health cooperative.

Start-up Funds

Green Bay asked for a commitment fee from prospective members. Our group agrees that start-up money is needed, but is not sure of a solid source. Some unsolicited businesses have offered to write checks to offset

start-up costs. The committee needs to follow-up.

Directors

The steering committee may serve as CHC's interim board, but the committee was asked to consider 7-9 key business leaders for service on the initial board.

Meetings in Green Bay

A few committee members will travel to Green Bay on July 8th to sit-in on an informational meeting concerning prospective business sign-ups with the Healthy Lifestyles pool. The St. Croix Valley group will also meet with the chamber executive in Green Bay (Nan Nelson) to learn more.

Next Meeting

The next committee meeting is tentatively set Tuesday, July 1, 2008 at 8 o'clock a.m. in Baldwin. Bill Rubin will confirm if the Ag Extension and Education Center is available.

The committee meeting adjourned at 9:03 a.m.

~William Rubin