

## Minutes for Volunteer Meeting of Ashe County Free Medical Clinic

January 26, 2010

The volunteers of the ACFMC met on January 26, 2010 at the clinic. Greg opened with a moment of silence to remember Cheryl Earnhardt, a wonderful lady that dedicated much of her time to the clinic and coordination of its volunteers.

Present for the meeting were:

Sherrie Hodges, Linda Sheridan, Cherie Gordon, Fairinda Payne, Linda Gagnon, Audrey Lundin, Mindy Wonsick and girls, Doug Ehrhardt, Cathy Ehrhardt, Greg Bolac and Monica Madden-Lynn.

### Director's Report

Greg said that the clinic had improved its financial status in the past year. At the end of 2008, there was approximately \$100,000 in the bank. At the end of 2009 the balance was approximately \$200,000. He said that the clinic will lose about \$30,000 the next year due mostly to loss of grants. The clinic was also able to hire a medical provider that is working about 50% more than the last paid provider. He went on to say that the clinic will be under strict financial control for 2010 due to the prospective loss of income. At this time, a tentative schedule for fundraising events for 2010 has been set. The Golf Tournament is scheduled for May 27 with the location yet to be determined. The West Jefferson United Methodist Women table event will be held September 11 in Hensley Hall at the church. It was noted that this is not considered to be a volunteer fundraiser. There was discussion of other possible fundraising events with a suggestion to make the concert an annual event and have different performers each year. The clinic will once again sponsor a booth at Christmas in July and suggestion was made to start earlier to line up volunteers to work.

Greg also reported that the clinic has been able to expand its services. There is now an arrangement with *New River Mental Health* to have a counselor see three patients on Thursdays and refer any that need more intense treatment to a psychiatrist. It is hoped that group sessions may be possible at some point. The clinic now has an alliance with *Care Share* and hopes to coordinate with them and other agencies to establish a common registration so that efforts are not duplicated. Doug will try to get the websites for New River and Care Share to provide links on the clinic website. Another improvement in services is the link up with the hospital to see X-rays. This will save time and assist the medical providers in making a diagnosis quickly. Mindy said there may be a similar link with lab results although it may not prove cost effective. There is an orthopedic P.A. that is willing to work with the clinic in providing joint injections. Monica is working on getting that set up.

Greg reported that Doug has put in a lot of work on the website and it will be very helpful in disseminating information about the clinic. Doug has created a new opening page which should be easily accessible. The newsletters and minutes from meetings will be accessible on the site. Cathy has agreed to take over volunteer schedules, which will also be on the website. In addition, she will send out a

monthly schedule to volunteers by e-mail. She has requested that volunteers respond to her email so she will know who is available to work.

Greg said that the biggest goal for 2010 is to track how each patient is doing. This is necessary to receive some of the BCBS funding. With the information from the past year, it was determined that of the 60 diabetic patients, all are meeting the standards recommended by the clinic. The same is true with patients experiencing hypertension. Their blood pressure readings are decreasing according to treatment guidelines.

#### Monica's Report

Monica said that the recent bad weather had caused problems in scheduling patients. She said that volunteers should not try to get out if the weather is too bad but asks that they call in if they are not going to come. Different policies for weather cancellations were discussed and Monica said she has found it best to have it on the radio and that patients be advised to listen for an announcement. Though currently the announcements are made only on WKSK 580, it was suggested that the announcements also be on the other local station, 106.1. A policy of closing when the schools are closed was rejected.

Monica has posted updated policies for volunteers on the bulletin board. She has asked that volunteers please look at the bulletin board for any new information. Monica said that the new paid medical provider is also the Medical Director for the Free Clinic in Boone. The clinic in Boone has volunteer GYN providers that she has been able to make referrals to for our patients.

Labs are now being done on Friday mornings from 7:30 – 9:30, which seems to work well. Monica said there has been mixed results in having eligibility on Thursdays. There is still a problem with people not showing up for appointments for both eligibility and clinic. Some eligibility is still being done on Tuesdays.

Monica had requests that she wanted to address. She says the big windows in front need to be cleaned and she would appreciate it if someone would help her after the weather improves. Her other request was to have the reception area and office painted. Doug said he had people from his church that would do the work if the paint and other supplies were furnished. Greg said he would see if anyone on the Board would be willing to approach one of the local building supply companies for donations.