

Notes on the Tuesday, December 2nd, Noon meeting of the SSU Campus Working Group on the Health Care Crisis in Sonoma County, Salazar seminar room 1061

Call to order: 12:10

Present:

- Eileen Thatcher, Chair of Biology Dept.
- Carolyn Epple, Asst. Professor, Anthropology Dept. (707) 664-2181, [carolyn.epple@sonoma.edu](mailto:carolyn.epple@sonoma.edu)
- Milya Jacobsen, Website librarian. [milya@Anytimemusic.com](mailto:milya@Anytimemusic.com)
- Brian Jersky, Chair of Mathematics Dept., [brian.jersky@sonoma.edu](mailto:brian.jersky@sonoma.edu)
- Vincent Richman, Asst. Professor of Accounting, School of Business & Economics, (707) 664-2025 [vincent.richman@sonoma.edu](mailto:vincent.richman@sonoma.edu)
- Skip Robinson, Initiative Facilitator of the Initiative and Lecturer, (707) 523-2888, [skip.robinson@sonoma.edu](mailto:skip.robinson@sonoma.edu)
- Joshua Schultz, Grant Specialist, OSRP (707) 664-3245, [josh.schultz@sonoma.edu](mailto:josh.schultz@sonoma.edu)
- Richard Zimmer, Professor, Hutchins School (707) 664-3181, [zimmer@sonoma.edu](mailto:zimmer@sonoma.edu)
- Notetaker: Jessica Froiland, [jfroiland@santarosa.edu](mailto:jfroiland@santarosa.edu)

12-12:10: Informal hellos.

12:10-12:15 Check-in and announcements

2nd Work Group Meeting in February: The group decided to call an additional planning meeting in February, tentatively on the 3rd Tuesday at noon (subsequently proposed: 4th Tuesday) on the logic that upon reconvening after winter break we will be only three months (and three meetings) from the Spring 2004 conference. One of the February work sessions will be structured and one will be unstructured, unless improvements to that idea come from the group.

12:15 to 12:20 Website Librarian's Report

Skip introduced Milya Jacobsen, the Initiative's website librarian. Milya began by passing around a list of initial links that are to be integrated with existing links on the website. The site is a work-in-progress and Milya invited suggestions and ideas from the group. The best way to contact her is via email: [milya@Anytimemusic.com](mailto:milya@Anytimemusic.com).

- Milya's work will significantly upgrade the quality of the on-line library which will serve the community and aid academe in getting this work done. Suggestions from the group included:
  - Include links with major hospitals, etc. (Milya was invited to confer with the SSU Biology Department Chair about this.)
  - Include Sonoma County statistics of population demographics, e.g. infant mortality, death rates, number of new cases of infectious disease, etc. Potential source: Sonoma County Health Department.
  - Other departments have sophisticated websites, so include their links. Example, Social Science website of websites regarding county health issues.

- ❑ Send requests for reciprocal links.
- ❑ Let faculty know about the website; get the word out.
- ❑ Ask Department Chairs to send appropriate course descriptions to the website. (Math Department Chair Brian Jersky has requested this.)

#### 12:20 to 12:25: Fundraising Status

- ❑ Josh Schultz reported that he, Carolyn, and Skip have compiled a packet to send to potential foundation funders. The draft is being restructured: breaking into formats. Basic aims identified in the long and short term.
  1. coordination and implementation of conference planning
  2. research and modeling of existing elements which could ameliorate crisis elements
  3. encouraging dialogue among local stakeholders
  4. discussing and negotiating potential models with the parties

A timeline/flowchart was provided by Carolyn Epple (attached).

This is not a full foundation proposal at this point, it is a narrative piece and budget outlines.

Target funders so far include the California Endowment, California Health Care Foundation, the Kellogg Foundation, the Nathan Cummings Foundation, Kaiser Family Foundation, and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Our hope is to help develop a small group of foundations which could each take a piece or two of what they're most interested in funding – developing collaborations with other interested community stakeholders.

#### 12:25 to 12:50: Research Reporting

EVERYONE Please hold the weekend of April 24th-25th for the spring Cooperage Conference on taking action to fight the crisis

Subjects brought up:

- ❑ The cost of covering the uninsured: design, math
- ❑ Aiming for system-wide vitality for all residents.
- ❑ Prevention
- ❑ Prescription discounting
- ❑ Cost of health care in Sonoma County
- ❑ Model of modified reimbursement levels being contested (parity for small hospitals, doctors, other health professionals)
- ❑ Utilization findings: implications for rates and plan design
- ❑ Human cost containment findings
- ❑ Public health and environmental containment findings
- ❑ Health care learning improvements

- Plan design study report

Research issues brought up:

- Primary areas: Preventative and public health, health education, covering the uninsured in this wealthy county (which is also a question of ethics and an examination of how people fall through the cracks). System isn't integrated.
- Discover the net cost for all health care in the county and then by segment:
  - children, elderly, etc. (For the uninsured, include gross costs less federal funding, less state funding and less county funding where applicable. Find the net net cost.)
  - Need costs and implications for system design. Modification and reimbursement rates for small hospitals, doctors, etc. (Small hospitals are often on the verge of collapse due to disproportionately small reimbursement rates. A Sonoma County doctors' study report cited 55 cents on the dollar of care as the current average reimbursement rate..)
  - The national system for handling prescriptions is in disgrace, so carefully examine options for significant prescription discounting.
  - Utilization findings: Tom Moore involved: look at primary statistical data in Sonoma County as part of state project by zip code (including care for ambulatory-sensitive cases).
  - Discussion is increasing about aiming for a high level of wellness for all residents, including systematic prevention, health education/promotion, community public health.
  - What things can be built into the system to make it more efficient? Have several mathematical equations incorporate ways of saving money and improving the system.
  - Field research and community-building. Change things or leave them as they are?
  - Return enough results to report out research at the spring Cooperage Conference
  - It would be best to put written report summaries and background reading all on the website a few weeks ahead of the conference, so that the most serious people can access it and prepare themselves. Perhaps, the conference could then begin at a significantly higher educational level.)
  - Strategies for a funded conference scenario (we secure some funding) and an unfunded (no outside funding – pay fees from selling \$10 daily tickets and perhaps some local funding) conference scenarios were discussed. Timelines become more important
  - Trying to move process of funding along. Majority of full research for the conference would require external funding by certain dates.
  - (We must plan to accommodate that even if we get something out to foundations, we may not hear back for a “while”.) Must be ready to work with what we have. Or with basically nothing, if need be. The conference can be self-supporting, with sufficiently timely planning. As

necessary, some of the planned speakers can be approached for pro bono performance.

- Hope to have foundation request out before Christmas.
- Some discussion ensued regarding the funding timeline meshing with the conference timeline.
- Possibility of a fall conference to complete the research findings reporting and apply the findings to a Sonoma County health plan and system design dialogue.
- Skip asked for email from group members if any major stakeholders are missing from the drafts handed out: [skip.robinson@sonoma.edu](mailto:skip.robinson@sonoma.edu)
- An SSU graduate works at PG&E on a research project for developing priorities in different areas. He might be able to do some research for this group.
- Bob Schultz, the head of Kaiser here, was mentioned again is a very important contact and health plan stakeholder leader.
- Bob (spelling? Eyler) does the North Bay Economic Forecast, and should be approached as well.
- What research do health care and medical institutions most want done? And are they allocating money to such study yet?
- It is time to start thinking about what academically oriented papers to present at conference.
- How do we draw in the non-medical community? How do we illustrate shared priorities with that sector?

Adjournment: 12:50 PM

Handouts: Notes of the November 4th Work Group; draft 1 of Tracks; draft 2 of Stakeholders List.

Respectfully submitted by Jessica Froiland