



## **Gadsden County, Florida**

### **Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners**

### **Local Healthcare Providers Workshop**

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**Workshop Minutes**  
**August 11, 2016 at 04:00 AM**  
**Edward J. Butler Government Complex**

#### **Present: County**

Brenda A. Holt, Chair, District 4  
Eric Hinson, Vice Chair, District 1  
Dr. Anthony "Dr. V" Viegbesie, District 2 (via phone)  
Gene Morgan, District 3 (absent)  
Sherrie Taylor, District 5 (absent)  
Robert Presnell, County Administrator  
David Weiss, County Attorney  
Beryl H. Wood, Deputy Clerk

#### **AGENDA ITEMS**

##### **1. WELCOME - Brenda A. Holt, Chairperson**

Chair Holt welcomed everyone to the meeting. She said she would like to come up with a working plan to address the healthcare issues in Gadsden County. She felt it would be beneficial to have one county person being the pin point for the healthcare.

Mr. Presnell provided a copy of healthcare rankings and roadmaps for Gadsden County.

Commissioner Viegbesie clarified that on the rankings, it showed Gadsden County in Georgia and it needs to be corrected to show Florida. He also spoke of the importance of coming together to discuss the healthcare needs in Gadsden County, so that we could promote healthy outcomes.

#### **GENERAL BUSINESS**

##### **2. Presentation –Big Bend Cares, Inc. -(Rob Renzi, Chief Executive Officer)**

Mr. Renzi discussed his program. He said they provide education and comprehensive support to people infected with or affected by HIV/AIDS, serving Gadsden, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Franklin, Taylor, and Wakulla Counties. He said in the Gadsden Chapter they provide

an array of HIV prevention education and HIV/AIDS awareness services through staff and volunteer.

Chair Holt asked why they only targeted minorities. He said they are only allowed to count minorities, but the program is open to all.

Chair Holt asked about the data and said she would like to see it. He said he would provide it to Mrs. Dee Jackson.

Chair Holt asked about counts for all races and how to make the numbers go up or down? He said he could provide all data.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked that they all present first and then entertain questions to the organizations.

Mr. Presnell inquired about the responses from the requests. He said tried to map all health aspects in the County. He said they received some back, but not all of them from service providers of healthcare throughout the County.

Commissioner Hinson said that Big Bend Cares is the grassroots in Gadsden County. “We appreciate the work in the Community.” He mentioned “PrEP”, a drug that kills the virus, an HIV prevention strategy.

**3. Presentation - Bond Community Health Center, Inc. -(Temple O. Robinson, MD, Chief Executive Officer)**

Dr. Robinson gave a power-point on the Bond Community Health Center. She gave an overview of site and services offered to residents of Leon, Gadsden, Wakulla, Jefferson, Taylor, Franklin, Liberty and Madison counties. She said they served 435 patients in CY 2015 and 1150 patient visits. They have support services ranging from eligibility assistance and transportation, to help you learn ways to eat healthier and live a longer, stronger life are available. She mentioned they also provide access to the highest quality comprehensive family health services with particular concern for the lower socioeconomic groups, regardless of their ability to pay. She said they will open a new primary care site in the spring of 2017.

**4. Presentation –Florida Department of Health – Gadsden-(Adrian Cooksey Wilson, Dr.PH, MPH, Administrator)**

This presentation was not shown, due to the presenter not being present.

**5. Presentation – Jesse Furlow Medical Center -(Joel Montgomery, Chief Executive Officer, North Florida Medical Centers)**

Mr. Montgomery addressed the BOCC. He said their mission was to increase access to quality healthcare for the underserved and to improve stakeholder value in a quality work environment with a motivated and prepared workforce. He said they have been in operation for over 30 years. He said NFMC is a nonprofit organization and the center is Federally Qualified Community Health Centers (FQHC's). In addition to sick care services, we provide preventive care, including screening, diagnosis and management of chronic illness such as diabetes, asthma, and heart and lung disease for the entire family. We provide highly efficient and cost-effective care, which reduces or eliminates the need for more costly care such as emergency room visits and avoidable hospital stays. This, in turn, generates significant savings for each our communities.

Lane Lune addressed the BOCC she said the offer the same services that Bond provides with 1 doctor and 2 nurse practitioners.

George Martinez presented demographics for 2015. Dental Services will soon be provided in October 2016. He announced the Back to School Health Fair tomorrow from 1-2 pm and encouraged the Board to come out.

**6. Presentation – Neighborhood Medical Center, Inc. -(Jeanne's S. Freeman, MSP, MSW, Chief Executive Officer, Registered Clinical Social Worker Intern)**

Nellie Graham presented a power-point for Neighborhood Medical Center. The mission of Neighborhood Medical Center is to serve those in need by providing and facilitating access to care and by enhancing the health of individuals through education, prevention and outreach. At Neighborhood Medical Center, we are committed to serving our patients with respect and compassion. She said they offer services from Primary Health Care, Radiology, Mental Health Care, Pediatrics, Women's Health, Chronic Disease Management, Specialty Clinics and Dental Services. She said they have 6 locations.

Dr. Kanesha Cole finished the presentation. She said they offer primary healthcare, dental, mental, specialty and a women's clinic. She said they have served Gadsden since 2013 and 7648 patients. Dental has been with them since 2014, seeing around 8518 patients. She said they are dedicated to improving and achieving all health care outcomes for all residents of the Big Bend Area.

**GENERAL DISCUSSION**

Chair Holt asked some questions to categorize them. She asked for a flow chart, so they can have a network.

Commissioner Viegbesie said the Neighborhood Medical was more specific with data. He posed several questions. How accessible is appointments?

Chair Holt asked about the referral process. Work together. She suggested they all fill out packet survey about services they offer and whom. What are some things to do that can make it better.

Commissioner Hinson discussed transportation being a major factor. What are some of the benefits of getting dental services is there any savings?

Dr. Cole responded they offer discounted services.

Chair Holt asked what needed to be improved?

It was a consensus that it was the education piece.

Mr. Renzi stated they go to a lot of events that are already planned. "We go where they are." He mentioned that Second Harvest is looking for partners.

Dr. Robinson responded you have to get out there. "You need clientele to trust you; you must look in community and get them to trust you. Get word out with health literacy. What does it look like to be healthy?" She said they show up at the football games, the health fairs, etc. and we do offer incentives for them to stop by and visit with us.

Mrs. Holt said they have a building (educational facility) coming soon where the Farmer's Market is out on West Highway 90 to provide the education portion, while they are picking up food they can also get access to health literature and other programs. "We need to change the whole mindset."

Mr. Hinson addressed the PrEP, which is a Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis, and it's the use of anti-HIV medication that keeps HIV negative from becoming infected. He said they need to talk about it, so people would become aware of it and know that it is available if they had unprotected intercourse with an infected person.

Dr. Robinson disclosed that there are stigmas concerning the drug. There is an underground world they were not sure how to reach.

Mrs. Holt said people need to know. She said give them feedback, who are some of the other healthcare providers or groups out there. She said they would like to know. She asked that they please fill out survey if they had not.

Mrs. Nellie Graham inquired about the half cent (indigent health care) sales tax. She said it was implemented to help the citizens because there was a dire need for dental and medical help for residents who are under insured or uninsured. She said the money was to provide much needed health services and would have helped. She said the program was utilized to the max.

Chair Holt said they had an election in 2008 and the new Commissioners decided to move the funding. She said when the funding was moved it caused everyone to have to cut programs. She said the half cent needs to be brought back and it starts with the Board and the citizens. The educational/training piece is absent and that is a big part of the process that was lost.

Commissioner Hinson thanked everyone for the valuable information they shared. He asked could the half cent sales tax for indigent care be placed on the ballot.

Chair Holt said citizens voted for half cent sales tax. The Board changed it and the Board can change it back and the Board needed to change the appropriation. It currently goes to the Hospital Bond, Capital Regional – Indigent Care, Health Department and the Health Council.

Mrs. Donna Graham, who serves on the GHI Hospital Board, asked if they could utilize the empty space/wing at the hospital. She spoke of the importance of utilizing the hospital. She spoke to the key being “accessibility.” She asked that they look at this collectively. “This is a money making business, people get caught in charity work, which is for churches. Businesses cannot give free services.” She said they must look at the half cent sales tax for indigent care.

Chair Holt said it only takes 3 votes to move the half cent sales tax to take care of indigent care. She thanked everyone for their attendance and input in making Gadsden better. She said they would like to take the information gathered today and the information that was previously gathered, review it and they would meet again.

Commissioner Dr. Viegbesse thanked all participants and said that he was looking forward to working with each of the groups to improve the quality of life for the citizens Gadsden County.

#### **CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

There was no citizen’s request to be heard.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, THE CHAIR DECLARED  
THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 5:46 P.M.**

**GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA**

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**Sherrie Taylor, Chair  
Board of County Commissioners**

**ATTEST:**

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**Nicholas Thomas, Clerk of Court  
Gadsden County, Florida**