

Regular Workshop – March 23, 2015
Agenda Item 9
Consent Item

Agenda Item: Consideration of Letter of Support for Primary Care Partnership

Presenter: Town Manager

Summary: The Town of Longboat Key Commission is being asked to support continuation of the current public/private partnership between the Sarasota County Department of Health (DOH) and the Community Health Centers of North Port. This partnership serves more than 30,000 citizens per year at three health centers in Sarasota County.

There is concern that the Florida Department of Health will require Sarasota DOH to reduce its participation and/or withdraw from providing primary care services in our community. The loss of this partnership would have a significant impact on Sarasota County and its citizens.

Attachments: 3-16-15 Memo, Manager to Commission;
3-15-15 Letter, County Administrator to Manager;
3-16-15 Proposed Letter, Mayor to Surgeon General and Secretary of Health

Recommended

Action: Approval of the Consent Agenda will authorize a letter of support to be sent under the Mayor's signature.

M E M O R A N D U M

Date: March 16, 2015

TO: Town Commission
FROM: Dave Bullock, Town Manager
SUBJECT: Consideration of Letter of Support for Primary Care Partnership

Attached is a letter from Sarasota County Administrator Thomas Harmer, requesting the Town Commission's support of the Primary Care Partnership currently in place in Sarasota County.

The public/private partnership between the Sarasota County Department of Health (DO) and the Community Health Centers of North Port serve more than 30,000 citizens per year at three health centers in Sarasota County. The Centers serve those who are uninsured, underinsured, and those who rely solely on Medicaid and Medicare for their health insurance.

There is concern that the Florida Department of health will require Sarasota DOH to reduce its participation and/or withdraw from providing primary care services in Sarasota County. The partnership between Sarasota County, Sarasota DOH and the DHCNP serves as the medical safety net for citizens. The loss of the partnership would have a significant impact on the community and citizens relying on the Centers for their health care.

A letter of support has been prepared for Commission consideration. Approval of the Consent Agenda will authorize the letter to be sent under the Mayor's signature.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.



SARASOTA COUNTY

"Dedicated to Quality Service"

March 5, 2015

Mr. Dave Bullock, Town Manager
City of Longboat Key
501 Bay Isles Road
Longboat Key, FL 34228

Re: Primary Care Partnership

Dr. Mr. Bullock:

On behalf of Sarasota County, I want to make you aware of an issue related to how primary health care is provided to our citizens, including those in your community. This issue especially impacts those who are uninsured or underinsured as well as those who rely solely on Medicaid and Medicare for their health insurance.

Please find attached a letter from the Sarasota County Commission to the Florida Department of Health Surgeon General expressing our strong support for the current public/private partnership we have with the Sarasota Department of Health (Sarasota DOH) and the Community Health Centers of North Port, Inc. (CHCNP). This partnership serves more than 30,000 citizens per year at three health centers in Sarasota County, including the new Sally and Sam Shapiro Babies and Children's Medical Center in Sarasota.

We are very concerned that the Florida Department of Health will be requiring Sarasota DOH to reduce its participation and/or withdraw from providing primary care services in our community. The partnership between Sarasota County, Sarasota DOH and the CHCNP serves as the medical safety net for our citizens. The loss of this meaningful partnership would have a significant impact on our community and our citizens.

We are working with our local legislative delegation to make them aware of our concerns. We ask that you apprise your elected officials and request your support for efforts to keep our highly effective primary care services in place.

Thank you for your attention to this very important matter.

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Harmer, ICMA – CM
County Administrator

c: Lee Ann Lowery, Assistant County Administrator
Chuck Henry, Director, Department of Health - Sarasota

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

1660 Ringling Boulevard, 2nd Floor ■ Sarasota FL 34236 ■ telephone: 941.861.5111 ■ fax: 941.861.5987



SARASOTA COUNTY

"Dedicated to Quality Service"

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

1660 Ringling Blvd., Sarasota, FL 34236

phone: 941-861-5344 fax: 941-861-5987

March 4, 2015

Dr. John H. Armstrong, MD, FACS
Surgeon General and Secretary of Health
State of Florida
4052 Bald Cypress Way
Tallahassee, FL 32399

RE: Primary Care Partnership

Dear Dr. Armstrong:

On behalf of the Sarasota County Commission, I am providing our letter of support for the continuation of our successful public/private partnership with Community Health Centers of North Port, Inc. (CHCNP), a not-for-profit corporation, and the Florida Department of Health in Sarasota (DOH-Sarasota). This partnership now serves more than 30,000 citizens per year at three health centers in Sarasota County, including the new Sally and Sam Shapiro Babies and Children's Medical Center.

Sarasota County enjoys a unique and highly effective relationship with DOH-Sarasota which has been providing primary care services to our community for more than 35 years. In response to the growing number of uninsured and underinsured citizens, in 2008, CHCNP and DOH-Sarasota applied for and were designated a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC). As a result, our partnership is now receiving almost \$2 million in federal funding.

DOH-Sarasota has developed a model for funding primary care for the uninsured and underinsured as well as high-risk patients that other providers will not accept. This funding model generates approximately \$17 million in revenue, relying on payments for services from Medicaid, Medicare, and the Children's Health Insurance Program, together with the \$2 million federal grant and a \$1.3 million County grant. The results of this partnership cannot be denied:

- 30,500 citizens received their primary care services in our clinics, including 13,700 children, 1000 pregnant women, many of them high-risk patients, and 1100 individuals who were homeless
- More than 37% had no insurance
- Almost 62% had family incomes at or below the federal poverty level
- More than 15% would be considered "working poor" families

Dr. John H. Armstrong, MD, FACS

March 4, 2015

Page 2 of 2

Equally as impressive as the data is the broad array of services our citizens can access through our clinics, including pediatrics, Women's health, dental, pharmacy, laboratory, behavioral health, chronic disease management and social services. There are also certified counselors who can assist those without insurance to qualify for Medicare, Medicaid or other third-party insurance based on income.

The partnership between Sarasota County, DOH-Sarasota and the CHCNP serves as the medical safety net for our citizens. The loss of this meaningful partnership would have a significant impact on our community and our citizens. We respectfully request that this partnership be allowed to continue in its current form.

Sincerely,



(signed in her absence to avoid delay)

Carolyn J. Mason
Chair

c: Sarasota County Commission
Thomas A. Harmer, County Administrator
Lee Ann Lowery, Assistant County Administrator
Chuck Henry, Director, Department of Health - Sarasota



TOWN OF LONGBOAT KEY

Incorporated November 14, 1955

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March 23, 2015

Dr. John H. Armstrong, MD, FACS
Surgeon General and Secretary of Health
State of Florida
4052 Bald Cypress Way
Tallahassee, FL 32399

RE: Sarasota County Primary Care Partnership

Dear Dr. Armstrong:

On behalf of the Town of Longboat Key Town Commission, I am writing to express our support for continuation of Sarasota County public/private partnership with Community Health Centers of North Port, Inc. (CHCNP), a not-for-profit corporation, and the Florida Department of Health in Sarasota (DOH-Sarasota). This successful partnership serves more than 30,000 citizens per year at three health centers in Sarasota County and has provided primary care services to the community for more than 35 years.

In response to the growing number of uninsured and underinsured citizens, in 2008, CHCNP and DOH-Sarasota applied for and were designated a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC). As a result, that partnership is now receiving almost \$2 million in Federal funding.

DOH-Sarasota has developed a model for funding primary care for the uninsured and underinsured as well as high-risk patients that other providers will not accept. This funding model generates approximately \$17 million in revenue, relying on payments for services from Medicaid, Medicare, and the Children's Health Insurance Program, together with the \$2 million Federal grant and a \$1.3 million County grant. The results of this partnership are impressive.

- 30,500 citizens received their primary care services in the clinics, including 13,700 children, 1000 pregnant women, many of them high-risk patients, and 1100 homeless individuals.
- More than 37% had no insurance
- Almost 62% had family incomes at, or below, the Federal poverty level

- More than 15% would be considered “working poor” families

The expansive list of services available include pediatrics, women’s health, dental, pharmacy, laboratory, behavioral health, chronic disease management and social services. There are also certified counselors who can assist those without insurance to qualify for Medicare, Medicaid or other third-party insurance based on income.

The partnership between Sarasota County, DOH-Sarasota and the CHCNP serves as the medical safety net for a significant population. The loss of this meaningful partnership would have a significant impact on the community and citizens it currently serves. The Longboat Key Town Commission urges you to allow this partnership to continue in its current form.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack G. Duncan,
Mayor

cc: Sarasota County Board of County Commissioners



March 23, 2015

Agenda Item 5

**No Material
Provided For
This Item**