

MINUTES
 Progressive Cheverly Health Committee
 HEALTH FORUM
 April 4, 2013, 7:30 pm -8:00 pm
 Judy Hoyer Center, Cheverly. MD

- I. Attendance: Between 40 and 45 persons attended the April 4 Progressive Cheverly Health Forum
 - At least 40 people signed in, plus others.
 - Representatives from 2 civic associations: Kentland and Radiant Valley
 - Dr. Sandra Coates and Jacqueline Eaton (sp?) from Waldorf
 - Individuals from Bowie, Cheverly, College Park, Landover Hills, Mt. Rainier
- II. Paul Thompson Co-chair of Progressive Cheverly convened the meeting and introduced Barbara Guest, Co-Chair of the Health Committee.
- III. Barbara Guest, introduced the speaker, Dr. Stephen Thomas, Professor and Director of the University of Maryland School of Public Health Center for Health Equity. Dr. Thomas and others are the authors of *Transforming Health in Prince George's County, MD: A Public Health Impact Study* funded by the county government, State of Maryland, University of Maryland Medical System (UMMS), and Dimensions.
- IV. Highlights of Dr. Thomas' remarks:
 - Replacement of the Prince George's County Hospital is a new beginning for health in Prince George's County. **We are building a new health care system, including health promotion and prevention, not just hospital care.**
 - Dr. Thomas presented a Power Point slide show of results from one of the seven technical reports from the *Health Impact Study*: Random Household Health Survey, during which 1001 county residents were interviewed via phone. The sample was selected in a way that allows results to be generalized to all county residents.
 - He presented slides depicting which hospitals county residents named as preferable for treatment of heart attacks and for non-emergency hospitalization. Prince George's Hospital was named less frequently than hospitals outside the county, such as Holy Cross and Washing Hospital Center.
 - Respondents named important factors in their decision to use a new County hospital.
 - 90% If high quality care is provided
 - 85% if their insurance is accepted at that hospital
 - 78% if specialties are provided and specialty physicians have privileges at a new hospital
 - 67% if the facility is close to their home
- V. Question and Answer period led by Dr. Thomas
 - One audience member spoke about the **current problem that mental health and substance abuse (SA) services are separate from other health services** and asked what the new health system would do about that. Dr. Thomas replied that the current availability of such services is inadequate, that the Affordable Care Act seeks to provide mental health parity with other health services, and that mental health and SA should not be stigmatized.
 - Would insurers, such as Kaiser, who now require their insured members not be hospitalized at Prince George's Hospital allow their members to be hospitalized at a new hospital? Dr. Thomas responded that UMMS would administer the hospital and is an

academic enterprise. Other audience members responded that it would depend on the quality of hospital outcomes. **The question was raised as to whether UMMS uses Kaiser physicians?**

- **What would the name of a new hospital be? Name recognition and marketing of the new hospital are necessary.**
- Another audience participant recommended that insurers should pay for all services in one place rather than sending their members to a variety of geographic sites to providers who take that insurance. Dr. Thomas responded by asking the question, " Whose interest is it in to maintain the status quo?"

Vi. Charlotte Colvin, Co-Chair of the Health Committee Working Group, presented an overview of the process used by Progressive Cheverly Health Committee Working Group to review the seven technical reports of the *Health Impact Study* during the past four month period.

- Charlotte discussed a written handout and oral summary of seven health advocacy points that evolved from the Working Group's analysis of the *Health Impact Study*. Also, she provided several examples of activities that could help implement each of the advocacy points.
- **Seven Major Themes for Advocacy Messages. Advocate for:**
 1. More transparency in health systems planning, which would include developing a County-wide health advisory board, with community involvement in health systems planning
 2. An integrated health system including primary care, hospital care, and public health, medical care, and other health care sectors designed to eliminate health disparities.
 3. More primary care services throughout the county, especially physicians, nurse practitioners, safety net providers and clinics inside the Beltway.
 4. A more detailed health data infrastructure.
 5. The integration of mental health and substance use services with medical, dental and rehabilitative services delivered in a culturally competent manner.
 6. An up-to-date assessment of the capacity of existing public health resources to identify gaps in service, as well as advocate for increased funding for the County Health Department.
 7. The expansion of partnerships and collaborations for Progressive Cheverly with an array of community-based and health care organizations.
- The handout also included a list of relevant health organizations and website.

VII. Leon Harris, Co-chair of the Health Committee, presided over an additional Question and Answer period.

- What might a new hospital mean?
 - County needs 61 physicians to have similar ratio as other counties in Central MD.
 - Area inside the Beltway lacks health resources
 - every Mayor should have something to say about healthcare; they meet monthly.

-County residents need to express their points of view about health to the County Council
 -wherever residents gather, they should be surveyed regarding health care system

- The County Health Department has obtained one of Maryland's five Health Enterprise Zones (HEZ) for Capitol Heights.
 - Health promotion and prevention ideas from audience. Smoking in apartments should be prohibited. New hospital and surrounding grounds should be smoke free. Nutrition and food resources are important, as is physical activity.
 - Quality services from UMMS could include HIV/Hepatitis C programs. Cardiology also might be strengthened. Currently some UMMS orthopedic providers have offices in College Park. UMMS personnel are already working in Dimension's Emergency Departments.
 - It is important to integrate the site of a new hospital with the surrounding community and economic development.
 - It is the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the State of MD, UMMS, County government, and Dimensions that is driving the health care system changes. A Certificate of Need (CON) will be required before a new hospital can be built. Community groups need to comment on the CON as well as demand information about the current processes.
- Progressive Cheverly Health Committee should obtain a copy of the MOU as well as comment during the CON public comment period.**

VIII. At 8:20, this portion of the meeting ended and the Business meeting for Progressive Cheverly began.

On May 2, the Women's Club will hold a Cheverly Town Election Forum.

On June 6, Progressive Cheverly will host Congresswoman Donna Edwards.

Submitted on April 21, 2013 to Health Committee by Claudia Smith, Co-Chair, Working Group