

MINUTES OF BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MILLARD COUNTY THE 24th DAY OF OCTOBER 24, 2007
AT THE COUNTY OFFICE IN DELTA, UTAH

PRESENT: Daron P. Smith..... Chairman
Kathy Y. Walker. Commissioner
John C. Cooper. Commissioner

Richard Waddingham County Attorney
Sheryl Dekker. Commissioners' Assistant

ALSO PRESENT: LuDean & Carlyle Peterson, Sandy Black, Dave & Sonya Taylor,
Rosemary Williams, Shelly Finlinson, Gayle Hathaway, Wendy
Stanworth, Mariah McDonald, Terri Watson, Jeri Clark,
Roger and Ruth Anna Howes, Neal and Carma Swensen, Steve Walker,
Dennis Fairless, Terri Nicholls, Natalie Bennett, Nancy Schmid, Lyla Rae
Morris, Susan Jones, Cheryl Bennett, Delma Jean Galli, Sandra
Willoughby, Rayette Jones, Holly Joseph, Kathy Farnsworth, Janette
Curtis, Gale Chapman, Kierstin Petersen, Rae Ellen Massa, Vince Massa,
Gary D. & Vicki B. Oberg, Selena R. Thayne, MariAnn Trillo,
Vicki and Gary Judkins, D. Scott Nickle, Verl Tolbert, Rex Stanworth,
John B. & Patty A. Jensen, Sarah Lister, Steven A. & Carol Broderick,
Robin Petersen, Lowell & Shirley Dobson Citizens

Jim Beckstrand..... IHC Administrator

Gayle Bunker Delta City Mayor

Dean Draper Chronicle/Progress

PURSUANT TO AN AGENDA WHICH HERETOFORE HAD BEEN PROVIDED TO
each member of the governing body, the local news media and posted in three public places or on
the Millard County website, as required by law, the following proceedings were had:

The public was welcomed and the public hearing began at 7:00 p.m. The following are brief
minutes of the public hearing made by Sheryl Dekker. The full procedure was recorded.

Millard County Long Term Care Meeting
October 24, 2007 7:00 p.m.
Delta, UT

- Steve Broderick: Move beds from Delta to Fillmore. Add assisted living wing to MCCC.
- Arnold Peterson: Has daughter in the care center. Has been in long term care for 12 years. When you have caring providers, you have a good care center. With declining tax base, funds could be cut from Road dept. 4" of asphalt on 4" of asphalt. Desert roads are better than ever. HVAC system could be improved. Timers on lights.
- Gary Oberg: Dad's care with Traditions was very inadequate. One nurse at night. Medications were not distributed regularly. Adequate is not enough for our elderly.
- Sandra Willoughby: Took husband to Provo yesterday. Doctor said Traditions is not that good. Many people will leave the County if Traditions comes in. Husband was at MCCC for six weeks and received wonderful care. Cut recreation. Many cooperative perks between hospital and MCCC. Work a day with a nurse and you will see what it takes to run the facility. We are all getting older.
- Sandy Black: Assisted living will be paid for in Millard County beginning in July of 2008. We have lost six residents who could not stay because they qualify for assisted living. One aid needed for 20 people in assisted living. There are 56 families that will be affected by the premiums that will cost five times as much as they are paying for IHC insurance. It is not just about money. Please consider that we are losing a good person in Nancy. Everyone makes mistakes. Assisted living will fix this. Please make the right decision.
- Roger Howse: Has seen the Traditions proposal. They have no retirement program. IHC has given the employees a good retirement program.
- Vicky Oberg: Nurse at the care center. She has worked in other nursing homes. This is the best she has ever worked in. The employees love the residents. They can call a doctor or get medication and supplies. The retirement program with IHC is excellent. She has children who are looking at becoming certified with the hopes of joining the IHC team.
- Gwen Losee: Registered nurse at MCCC. She has worked overtime every week since

June because of shortages because nurses are leaving Delta. They are down to four nurses. Wants to work for a facility that she can be proud of. Wants the residents to have the very best they can offer. Doesn't care about benefits. There are many employees who have to have the benefits. Workers from Nephi say it is scary there because of some of the people who work there. You need qualified people with experience. Often times does not take lunch because of census on south side where she works. Take care of the people who have paved the way for us.

Gary Judkins: The care center gives great care. The nurse care business is big business. Find consulting people who can help make this work.

Selena Thayne: Husband is self employed and doesn't have insurance. They have a child and one on the way. She doesn't want to live on Medicaid. Wants to be able to support family. She is not moving out of this valley. She chooses to work for IHC and enjoys their benefit package. The new law is the only way we can make everyone happy (assisted living).

Kathy Farnsworth: Employee of IHC in supplies. Traditions has not taken a good look at the relationship they share with IHC. She tries to find ways to save money. Blood collection tubes are bought in 100 packages. They are working with IHC to get tubes from the lab at no cost to the MCCC because they expire before they use them. Will they have that relationship with a different provider? In 2006 she gave up a lucrative career in Oregon to come to Delta to take care of an elderly parent. She has a benefit package now that does not compare to anything she has had before.

Gayle Hathaway: Worked in health care facilities several years ago. She realizes that the costs are really high. Is it worth what we will be losing to change providers? Her daughter will have to move because she works in an IHC facility. Why aren't we getting rehab people from Provo? That would be an additional revenue for this facility. The assisted living would not take anything away from the two existing facilities. The care at MCCC is much better with better qualified people. She likes the idea of getting a consultant that can help us run more efficiently.

Lowell Dobson: Born and raised in Holden. Has experience in marketing. Sees a couple of problems. Can't make it with half the building filled. Why not bring in someone who can do an efficiency diagnosis on the business and give some ideas about where things can be fixed. As close as we are to Utah Valley there ought to be something done that could make this facility run more cost effectively. The commissioners have no control over IHC. IHC runs it and sends the county the bill. That is a very uncomfortable and

	unsafe position to be in. It is a fine facility. The contract expires in 2009. If there is some way to extend to that time and then renegotiate with IHC.
Gary Oberg:	IHC has come to the county several times and asked the county to step up and pay their bills in a proper manner. He has received permission to quote someone from the community. She doesn't have time to go to the meeting but she can vote, and there will be new commissioners next time.
Kirsten Petersen:	She is a nurse at the care center. She worked today and one little lady this morning hugged her and said she was glad that she was here. She was afraid that Kirsten had left her. She asked why everyone is leaving. Working in long term care is not easy. They don't get paid a lot, but they love the people and enjoy the quality work environment of IHC. She has worked in other care centers. People who have worked at the care center for 20-25 years will have to leave if the county changes providers. They have already lost staff who has chosen not to wait and see what happens. How will you staff this facility with Traditions when there are already problems with staffing at MCCC. Everything and anything should be tried.
Marianne Trillo:	In May her father fell and broke his hip. It was nice to know that she didn't have to travel to visit him. He was able to stay at MCCC until his 20-day medicare time was up. He would not qualify for medicaid because he has too many assets. She worked at another business for thirteen years with no benefits. She has much less stress and enjoys the people that she works with. She is a single mother and is worried about having no benefits. Before she couldn't go to the doctor, but now she can because of her IHC insurance. Her 401K will help her when she retires. She would like to see her dad in assisted living at the Care Center.
Steve Broderick:	The people at the care center are great. They truly love the people. If they lose their jobs, who do we turn our back on? The people in the care center made this county what it is.
Vickie Judkins:	Buried her mother today. She has been at the care center a lot while her mom has been ill. She is concerned about the cost of running the facility. The power is within ourselves to find answers to make the facility cost effective. She suggested opening the other two wings to assisted living.
Gwen Losee:	Have you considered assisted living and will you explore it?
Rae Ellen Massa:	She is a nurse at the care center. Has been a nurse for 23 years. She has worked outside IHC for several years. She has worked for IHC for four

years. She is impressed with the standard of care that IHC promotes. The people at the care center receive the best care of any she has worked with. It is her understanding that the county put pressure on to reduce staff. John Hoopes. She has never seen one of you (commissioners) at the care center to see what is going on. It is not easy working with the reduced staff. The patients are not receiving the care that she is used to giving. Maybe each of you should work a 12-hour shift beside the employees. The employees need that job to make ends meet. This county is not filled with nurses that available to go to work. We are in a crunch at the care center and we all give 110% because we love what we do and we love the people we serve. Our families benefit from that. If there is anyway to stay with IHC we need to do it. Each of you need to be aware of what happens at that building. We trust you (Rich) to be a voice for us.

Sandra Willoughby: She doesn't think the commission is working hard enough to work with IHC. You need to pay your bills and watch the money closer. You are using tax money. Option # 5 is full of shit. Traditions cannot do what they say they can do. Talk to John Hoops and see if you can't get him to stay here.

Vickie Oberg: These are not rocks that we are sitting in a chair. These are forty to sixty human beings. You can have to have enough people to care for these human beings. Trying to keep them from getting hurt is very hard. These are people who are agitated. They need attention when they need attention. A nurse and an aid is not enough. It takes more people. We love these people. She drove to Sp Fork for five years before she came here. She could go back to Spanish Fork tomorrow. Would you want someone to tell you, "no, I can't help you right now?"

Lisa Bradfield: She would be willing to pay more in taxes to keep the facility with IHC.

Gwen Losee: Are the commissioner willing to make comments?

Kathy Walker: This hearing is to receive comments from the public.

Rae Ellen Massa: What have you done to research the idea of assisted living at the care center.

Kathy Walker: We

Nancy Schmid: You received information in January from John Hoopes about what would happen if you moved the patients from Fillmore.

Sandy Black: As the lead commissioner (Kathy) what has happened to the quarterly meetings that used to be held? Where have you been? You don't come to observe. You don't come to meetings. If you had twenty residents in assisted living, you would make \$600,000 a year.

Steve Broderick: Why haven't you responded to the figures you were given? Nancy doesn't lie. You have no idea what she has done. His mother-in-law and father are in there. His mother passed away there. I voted for all four of you.

Kirsten Petersen: Will there ever be a time when you guys will be able to answer questions?

Daron Smith: They will make comment when they make the announcement about what to do. IHC has been asked why it isn't filled, why they haven't marketed the facility. \$400,000 per year has been projected each year and each year the cost has exceeded that by several hundred thousand dollars, up to \$800,000.

Steve Broderick: Nancy prepared solution to the problem.

Nancy Schmid: You have always had the option to license part of the building as assisted living. Many options have been discussed. What changes in 2008 is that medicaid dollars can be spent in assisted living as well as long term care. The residents will be able to keep up to \$300 and go to assisted living. They can also use that money at home. The state of Utah has implemented this in stages. They have found that people have left the nursing homes and gone into assisted living. Nancy says that she markets all the time, she meets with discharge people all the time. They have trouble getting their people back here. Kathy, you have parents who have long term care. They chose to be where they feel at home. People come here because of their connections to the county.

John Cooper: We have budgeted \$300,000 each year as projected by IHC. There are experts who have managed this facility. We know that the residents receive wonderful care. We are mandated to be fiscally responsible. We are researching all options to make this a better situation. It is not fair to criticize the commissioners because there are tough decisions to be made here. We have a good working relationship with IHC.

Nancy Schmid: The issue in that building is not about tax dollars. The issue is about census. There are two places to get census. You can put long term care patients in the facility and patients should be there from both sides of the county. The other option is to put assisted living in the facility. Those two things will keep the county from paying a subsidy.

John Cooper: The swing bed situation will be addressed. The people in Fillmore appreciate having the convenience of the swing beds in Fillmore.

Nancy Schmid: Then why would people travel from Provo to Fillmore or Delta?

Kathy Walker: In July 2008 the new law will be in effect. Is that correct? If the care center was currently licensed as an assisted living facility, what would be the costs?

Nancy Schmid: If the facility was full, we would stop losing money almost immediately.

Kathy Walker: How soon would we stop losing money

Nancy Schmid: You would stop losing money at ten additional patients in assisted living.

Gayle Hathaway: Does Millard County own the care center?

Daron Smith: Yes, we own the care center and IHC owns the ground. We have a lease with them on the land.

Gayle Hathaway: Then where is the money going?

Delma Jean Galli: Why do they charge \$5,000 per month at MCCC when you can go to Nephi for much less? Ten more people would make it. No one will come here when they are paying \$3,500 per month somewhere else?

Rex Stanworth: I appreciate you folks. I suggest that we look at the Fillmore swing beds. We travel to Fillmore to take care of county business. If this facility has to close we will all be traveling to visit our loved ones. We have got to save this ship. This meeting is only going to be duplicated and triplicated with every department of the county. If you only have so much to spend, you have to save the ship, and that includes all the departments in the county. When the county wasn't going to take over the recreation department from the city, the mayor of Delta threatened to plow under all the grass at the recreation facilities. Those people who use the recreation facilities interests are important too. Road money cannot be transferred to other departments in the county. That money is mandated to go toward roads. I am appalled that people would accuse you of being dishonest. An increased tax could hurt many of the people that you are trying to help. He is glad you have a committee that is helping you to make this tough decision.

Daron Smith: Daron thanked the people for coming and for their assessments and interest

and closed the meeting at 8:50 p.m..

Attest: _____

Approved: _____