

River Valley Health and Dental Center

CEO Report to the Board of Directors

June 2021

Community Impact

- Leadership presented the Executive and Finance committees a proposed spending plan for the HRSA C8E Capital grant in the amount of \$687,781 as part of the American Rescue Plan. The grant application must be submitted to HRSA by June 24 and extends over a 3-year period. In order for us to submit an application, we had to create a potential project without adequate time to perform all of the required due diligence. HRSA is completely aware of the predicament they have placed on many health centers across the country. Their answer to all of us is to allow a high level of flexibility and opportunity to change projects and expenditures during the 3-year period. To that end, we have developed a plan that is essentially predicated on the acquisition of a property in Muncy which we will fully discuss during our meeting. Additionally, we have engaged a consulting firm, Capital Link, to perform a market assessment of our entire service area and beyond that will provide an essential piece of information well before we begin work on the proposed projects.
- COVID-19 testing and vaccine numbers have continued to decline during past month. The vaccine clinic is now open to walk-ins from 9 am – 3 pm. Outreach staff has been active in the community to make the vaccine available to as many individuals as possible. The outreach staff has worked with the YWCA, Sojourner Truth Ministry, Clinton County Housing Authority, Ebenezer Baptist Church, and the YMCA. Additionally, the Center will be offering vaccinations at the Juneteenth celebration in Brandon Park on June 19 and First Friday on July 2.
- To date we have administered approximated 9,500 vaccines and just over 3,000 COVID tests.
- The vaccine clinic will be relocated to the Center by July 10 to make the best use of space. This move will allow the Community room to be available for meetings.

Governance

- Our meeting this month means that we will be electing corporate officers, voting to reappoint one member of the Board to a second term, and voting to appoint a new member of the Board.
- The Personnel and Nominating committee has put forth the following slate of officers: Chair, Kim Wetherhold; Vice-chair, Jean Myers; Treasurer, Matt McLaughlin; Secretary, Chris Ebner.

- Action will be needed to move Abbey Eschbach to a second term and an approval will be requested to approve Josh Warfel as a new member.
- Unfortunately, we will also be saying good-bye to three members: Barb Barbus, Dewy Hilliard, and Adanma Akujieze.

Grants and/or Expanded Services Opportunities

- Dr. Shi began work as a staff dentist this past month. She will orient for the next two or three weeks and then move to the Jersey Shore office. Dr. Tokede is scheduled to be onboard August 1. As previously reported, we are continuing to recruit for at least one additional dentist. We had two very promising interviews with this past month and are hopeful that one of these dentists will want to join us.
- As part of our ongoing desire to maintain the necessary agility to capitalize on expanded service opportunities, management has spent a considerable amount of time looking at the best use of space for clinical and administrative space. We have had to repurpose space on a routine basis for the past few years. Our ongoing efforts have been intensified with the availability of grant funds for renovation purposes. A comprehensive plan will be available for discussion at the Board level in July.

Building Community Awareness and Perception

- Let's End COVID!, a local grass roots group seeking to educate the residents of Lycoming County and the City of Williamsport, has asked River Valley to be the fiscal manager of its funding for the planned efforts. We have supported their efforts to place billboards and other communications, radio, direct mail, and print ads that should be increasingly visible and effective to address the vaccine hesitancy that is still prevalent. In addition, we are working with them to provide vaccines at the upcoming Juneteenth celebration planned in Brandon Park on Saturday, June 19th.
- National Health Center Week is August 8 -14, 2021 and the theme is "Community Health Centers: The Chemistry for Strong Communities". Plans are still being formulated for celebration of this to include recognition of River Valley's 10-year anniversary of being an FQHC. We are optimistic that the relaxation of COVID restrictions will permit a more traditional celebration.

Outreach Locations & Activities for May and June 2021

- STEP Board Activities
- Chamber of Commerce Activities
- Senior management has continued to participate with local groups anxious about COVID-19 which includes such interested parties as state and county government representatives, as well as concerned citizens.
- Vaccine Outreach: General Cable, Clinton County Housing Authority, and YWCA
- Table Display and TV monitors in exam rooms at RVH&DC: Women's Health Awareness and Pride Month