

Health and Welfare
Committee
February 7, 2011

Present: Mayor Humphrey, Ken Arney, Robert Gobble, Russell Kyte, L. C. Tester, Ronnie Trivett and Richard Winters.

Guests: Carrie Seeley, Jeff Lyons, Jim McGee, Caroline Hurt and other concerned citizens.

Mayor Humphrey called the meeting to order, Chairman Jo Ann Blankenship was ill and could not attend the meeting.

Motion to approve minutes from the January meeting was made by Russell Kyte, second by Robert Gobble. Motion duly carried.

Old Business

Mayor Humphrey updated the committee regarding the additional physician at the Carter County Health Department. Caroline Hurt was not able to stay for the meeting, as she had another commitment, we will schedule her back for the next meeting for more detail. A list of programs and services that are offered at the Health Department was provided to the committee. Caroline Hurt, Mayor Humphrey, Fred Adams of the Regional Health Office, Linda McClure and Dr. James Holt at ETSU met January 28 about the possibility of ETSU contracting provider services at the Health Department. Presently we have one Physician that operates one day a week. A previous Physician had taken the buy-out from ETSU and the position has never been re-instituted by the state. Initially our understanding was that ETSU could provide us with a Staff Physician and an Intern to fill the balance of the four days so we could see an additional 2,500 to 3,000 patients a year and provide basic health care. However, ETSU has very limited staffing and the \$90 per hour rate they quoted could provide at best a Staff Member and Resident only one day a week. We are now talking with Nashville, Phil Roe's Representative John Abe Teague was at the meeting as well and he is checking to see if there is any funding available at this point. To hire a Physician for five days a week would cost approximately \$175,000 a year. Senator Corker's Representatives were in the office last week and we have ask for help from them as well.

New Business

Wellness Program was represented by Carrie Seeley and Kevin Harkness from Mountain States Wellness Center. Ms. Seeley talked about some of the programs that Mountain States provides to businesses and municipalities. Brochures and other information were provided to the committee and citizens alike.

Motion to adjourn was made by Ken Arney, second by Robert Gobble. Motion duly carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Debbie Street