

MINUTES OF THE Meadow Lakes Community Council
July 10, 2019

A quorum was not present at the meeting.

President's report: Patti thanked Tim for all his work on the sports fields and described the new walking trails around the sports fields.

Mat-Su Regional Hospital

By Dave Wallace, Chief Executive Officer and Alan Craft, Director of Marketing and Public Relations

- 1935 New deal project. It was called the Valley Hospital
- 109 acute care beds
- 840 employees, full and part time, 40 volunteers
- 30,867 ER visits
- 35% of all profits go to Mat-Su Health Foundation
- Operate urgent care facilities
- Last wing on the third floor will be behavioral health wing. 16 bed unit under construction now. To open fourth quarter 2019. Privately funded.
- 60% of behavioral health patients use Medicaid. Don't know what reimbursement will be available from the state.
- ER expansion planned that includes general treatment rooms and psychiatric evaluation.
- Alaska Regional also requested behavioral health beds from the state. Their project is on hold due to budget uncertainty.

Who owns Mat-Su Regional? It is a LLC owed 50% Mat-Su Health Foundation, 50% Community Health System. Run/operated by a different consulting firm.

- Very close to capacity but fluctuates.
- They have an affiliation with the Mayo Clinic.
- Joint Commission of Accreditation has overall oversight. State Health Department, FAA, FDA

What percentage of total patients are on Medicaid and Medicare? 65-70%

Some of the prices are available on the website. The state has a plan to mandate price transparency, but it has not been rolled out.

Agency Report:

Senator Wilson - The legislature is hung up on where to meet. Told the governor that he doesn't agree with many of the veto. Zero sum game right now which isn't helping anyone. Heading to Juneau tonight. Lots of issues that most legislators agree on, senior benefits, fire safety, behavioral health. There are other mechanisms to get money for some of the programs that can happen after the deadline passes. The capital budget is next and the PFD. Lots of

federal money on the table. Lawsuit filed today regarding the location of the special session to determine if the statute is right or the constitution, which is silent on the location, is correct. No respect for positions or titles. Name calling, etc. Believes in early childhood education, would solve many problems in adulthood. Apologized for not answering emails, 3000 unanswered emails so far. Terry, how are we going to address the funding gap, many people support income tax. Not looking at that right now, but will have to look at broad based tax in the future. Have been working on some issues with oil taxes, but complicated. Terry, other industries? Lots of opportunities, but cost of energy a barrier. Cally, doesn't like grandstanding. Wilson tries to be fact based but will do some grandstanding tomorrow in Juneau. Governor may be willing to negotiate on the errors on the vetoes. Chad, may have cut extra items to use as bargaining chips. Governor may have stepped back from the full PFD. Does not support the veto for court budget. Court case made precedent for the legislature following the constitution and not the statutes. This is the basis of the location complication.

Main vetoes opposed:

- 1) Behavioral health grants
- 2) Senior benefits
- 3) Homeless assistance, cheaper to keep people stably housed than to house them once they are homeless, mental health grants
- 4) Early childhood education

Homeless migration goes from Anchorage in the summer to Valley in the shoulder seasons, to Fairbanks in the winter and back.

Sept 15 is drop-dead deadline to set the PFD amount.

Board reports: Education offering neighborhood watch kits. There is an application in the packet. Needs five households and a leader to apply.

Correspondence: new marijuana retail store at 5320 W Parks Highway. Near Museum Drive.

Agency reports: Chief Fairchild: people followed the fireworks ban on fourth of July. Covering Montana Creek Fire. Full fire ban Fairbanks south on the road system.

Persons to be heard:

Miles for Meals for seniors, \$50,000 goal, raised \$53,000. Will be able to provide 53,000 meals to seniors throughout the Valley.

Jake with Senator Shower's office. Highlighted HB 49 repealing SB 91 crime bill. Probably going to have to reopen Palmer jail. Prison population will increase. Parks will be cleaner.

Prepared by Camden Yehle

President Patti Fisher

