

LWVBC Health Care Team Brief Summaries of 2016 Team Meetings

November 29, 2016 – Barbara, Nancy, Frieda, Jo, Virginia, Gwen and Mary Anna met at Gwen's home. We began the meeting with discussion of post-election concerns. Then we recounted recent and ongoing involvements. Jo shared handouts on the Boulder County Public Health Improvement Project (PHIP), where she is on the policy committee; on Governor Hickenlooper's mental health related budget proposals, which we can follow via LWVCO's Legislative Letter; and Mental Health Colorado's Brain Wave network, which Jo is joining. Jo and Mary Anna reported on a recent Sutherland Bi-polar Center program, which featured Matt Vogel speaking about his personal bipolar history and the work of the National Behavioral Health Innovation Center at UCHSC, where he is executive director. The specialized Sutherland Center is on the CU-Boulder campus and has training programs worth looking into. Gwen and Bill's Family to Family NAMI course concluded successfully. Team members shared ideas about ways to enhance NAMI's reach, such as encouraging class members to network about Mental Health First Aid and talking with the board about collaboration with Mental Health Partners (MHP). Efforts to decrease stigma are a priority all around. MHP has done a program at Nissi's in Lafayette with musicians who performed and also talked about their behavioral health experiences. It was a very moving experience for attendees. MHP is looking for performers for additional programs. Boulder Community Health is trying the strategy of having counselors in primary care offices—a way to introduce patients to behavioral health care seamlessly. Gwen and Jo were planning to attend the PHIP public meeting that evening, sponsored by the Lafayette UU Fellowship.

Mary Anna reported on a follow-up meeting about ColoradoCare and may attend a planning meeting in December. She'll be on the engagement team to continue advocating for single-payer healthcare, strategies to be determined.

She also attended a briefing at radio station KGNU, where LWVBC got advice about how to promote events and how to be interviewed effectively on radio. The idea evolved of giving League a monthly four-minute editorial spot, which would be linked to print opportunities with help from the station. Our team will certainly want to propose topics and participate. We'll work on "speaking out in print" during future meetings. Our next meeting will be on January 10.

October 11, 2016 – Barbara, Jo, Frieda, Nancy and Mary Anna met at Nancy's home. Most discussion centered on election issues and our advocacy campaign for ColoradoCare Amendment 69. Frieda and Mary Anna had gone to a showing of "Now Is the Time," a film promoting single payer healthcare. We now have the film on DVD for sharing.

September 13, 2016 – Barbara H., Nancy, Frieda, Jo, Gwen and Mary Anna met at Nancy's home to catch up on ColoradoCare advocacy and education efforts, to learn about other events and programs, and to make further preparations for elections. Four of the five sessions about ColoradoCare are completed, with mostly good results—effective speaker, interested audience. The largest group was at Frasier. One session remains—September 29 in Broomfield. Mary Anna shared copies of handouts used and will seek answers to questions raised by team members. Jo reported on the Boulder Public Health Improvement Process. She attended the August 17 meeting and will continue with the committee on

education. Jo also told about SAMHSA's new "assisted outpatient treatment" grants, which are being piloted in 17 locations (none in Colorado). Mary Anna told about the SafeTALK seminar on September 10. It's part of an international training program about suicide prevention, this session organized by a Boulder Rotary member, who is seeking partner organizations to schedule more sessions. Regarding election preparations, this team can further advocate for Amendment 69, as well as the mental health ballot issue initiated by Mental Health Colorado, via letters to the editor and encouraging questions to candidates about health matters on VOTE411. We have urged ColoradoCare leaders to respond to a Libertarian's misleading letter to the editor. Our next meeting will be on October 11.

July 14, 2016 – We gathered at Mary Anna's home primarily to discuss preparations for ColoradoCare Amendment 69 education/advocacy sessions. Five are planned, with only the Broomfield date and location yet to be determined. Because of travel and involvement in August programs, our next meeting is set for September 13.

June 21, 2016 - Mary Anna, Barbara H., Frieda, Barbara K., Jo, and Virginia met at Frieda's home. The most pressing business was planning ColoradoCare information sessions. Five are intended; three are scheduled: Monday, August 1, 2:30-4:00 pm, Frasier Meadows; Saturday, August 13, 10:30 am-12:00 pm, Longmont Public Library; Monday, August 22, 7:00-8:30 pm, Alfalfa's, Louisville. Volunteers are seeking another site in Boulder and one in Broomfield. Our Team will be asked to provide a moderator for each session. Discussion revealed the importance of good information for seniors; we'll need speakers who can answer tough questions. Barbara H. reported on the May 25 early psychosis research forum featuring her daughter Tamara Sale. She shared Tammy's Powerpoint and a published report on Oregon's EASA program. Tammy returns to Colorado to speak at the NAMI convention in July. Mary Anna reported on the May 18 Boulder County Public Health gathering of multiple organizations focused on behavioral health. The group concluded that collaboration among us all will produce best results. Focuses should be on access to and quality of care, understanding of behavioral health, and lessening stigma. After team meeting Mary Anna shared follow-up materials from BCPH. A next such gathering will be August 17. Another outcome of was a conversation with Diana Sherry, who leads the Behavioral Health committee of Boulder Rotary Club. She is offering a Safe Talk seminar on September 10 and is interested in joining forces and sharing information as opportunities arise. Mary Anna handed out League materials about how to take action and advocate on issues—materials for future discussion and use.

May 17, 2016 (rescheduled from May 10) - Mary Anna Dunn, Barbara Hancock, Nancy Herzog, Frieda Holley, Barbara Kantor, Jo Manternach, Virginia Stringi, and Gwen Wharton met at Mary Anna's home; Board member Jeannette Hillery joined us to discuss preparations for ColoradoCare (ballot issue 69) educational programs. The first order of business was welcoming Barbara K. and exchanging introductions. Discussion about ColoradoCare touched on timing, meeting sites, handling advocacy vs. pros&cons, recruiting speakers. Mary Anna will follow up with Peggy Leech, Board member who oversees

meeting arrangements. Other upcoming activities included the Improving Mental Health in our Communities lunch, which Mary Anna attended the following day, and the Early Psychosis Intervention research forum on May 25 featuring Barbara Hancock's daughter Tamara Sales. Barbara and Mary Anna will attend. Jo shared information from the Community of Hope website, which includes lots of useful information: <http://www.bouldercounty.org/family/getinvolved/pages/coh.aspx>. Future attention will turn to advocacy efforts. League materials will be helpful in prioritizing, strategizing and mobilizing our efforts. (The May 18 luncheon focused on how various Boulder County agencies and nonprofit organizations can best collaborate on our efforts—good fodder for future planning.)

April 12, 2016 - Mary Anna Dunn, Barbara Hancock, Nancy Herzog, Frieda Holley, Jo Manternach, Virginia Stringi, and Gwen Wharton met at Virginia's home; Susan Saunders, LWVBC 1st VP and Voter Service director, joined us. We briefly reviewed the successful March 8 educational program with Andrew Romanoff as speaker. Partnering with other organizations was a plus. We're eager to see what parts of the program were captured on video.

Susan's presence was especially related to the ColoradoCare ballot issue. Close to the election, ballot issue forums will present pros and cons on all the issues, and focus on each will be relatively brief. Meantime, because State League endorses ballot issue 69 universal healthcare, informational programs are to indicate advocacy. A challenge is how to deal with misinformation and "big money" pushback on this issue. That is, we'll want to structure information to refute falsehoods. Fiscal impacts are a key point that will concern voters. Fortunately, numbers of speakers are available, and we may be able to arrange more than one session, to accommodate our members at more than one location. We can also help promote ColoradoCare presentations hosted by other groups, per the ColoradoCareYes schedule on Facebook. Our LWVBC board will discuss plans at their April meeting and then we can proceed to seek presenters. Just who will work on these arrangements remains to be seen. Meantime, a Colorado Public Radio segment gave a good overview of pros and cons, and *Denver Post's* "Perspective" also featured the issue. Subsequently, we found that the comprehensive ColoradoCare booklet is available on the Web as a PDF, and Jo will pick up enough printed booklets for our group.

Jo noted that a group at the Boulder Valley UU Fellowship in Lafayette is currently focusing on increasing access to navigation services – helping people find the help they need. We talked of ongoing advocacy on mental health issues. We can seek Board approval to speak as LWV representatives and we can, for example, send letters to editors as individual citizens. Gwen noted that she and her husband are again teaching Family to Family for NAMI this fall (Aug.-Nov.).

Barbara reported on the meeting she attended arranged by Dr. Leto Quarles, current president of the Boulder County Medical Society. Most attendees were police and sheriff department leaders, who have a sense of urgency about dealing effectively with behavioral health related incidents. (Information about this BCMS initiative can be found on their

website: bcms.net). A Boulder Public Health representative reported on their survey showing that 11 or 12 different groups are working toward improving services. We'll want to follow these developments. Barbara's participation is a most helpful connection.
