



Medical Clinic

Things are happening. Are they good? Our last Lucerne Valley Economic Development Association meeting (Monday August 26) was a very busy and full meeting. It ran 20 minutes overtime due to so much going on. We barely had time for our normal monthly reports from our elected representatives. Worst of all, I missed my bedtime. Oh, no!

What was it that filled the time? There were three doctors in attendance, each representing their clinics, all vying for a federal grant that has become available for the specific purpose of expanding medical care in Lucerne Valley, which “they” (whoever “they” is) consider to be underserved. These clinics were:

H Clinic, located in the Lucerne Valley Shopping Center, and the doctor who



operates it, Dr. Hoang Tran Nguyen. He has had the clinic for 7 years in that location. It is not dependent on grants at this time.

Center for Family Health & Education, represented by Dr. Sean Kossari. This outfit has several clinics across Southern California.

Apex Community Health Center, represented by its CEO, Dr. Armine Harutyunyan, and a doctor with her. Their one clinic is in Southern California, and this would be their second. They claim that they will put a clinic here with or without the grant.

Also in attendance were two representatives of the Bear Valley Community Health District, which obtained a different grant to buy and outfit a large health van for the purpose of expanding medical services in rural low-income communities. They realized that right in their back yard is one of those communities. Lucerne Valley. They plan to provide several different types of services and medical professionals as their patient base grows, and will park here in our shopping center, hopefully once a



week. Their funding (to my understanding) is already in place, and their van nearly ready to try a test run down the switchbacks on the highway to Big Bear. They will be able to use the outlet we put in for the St. Mary van a few years ago.

Last, but not least, Dr. Ashok Melvani came to hear about what the clinics are hoping to do. Dr. Melvani has had office hours here two days a week for 28 years, so he knows many of us and loves his patients personally. His is a private practice, anchored in Victorville, where his office accommodates his General Practice, and also a Rheumatologist and an Orthopedic surgeon, who also happen to be his son and daughter-in-law.



Wow. All of a sudden our sleepy little desert town finds itself in a spotlight of sorts. Is it a good or a bad spotlight? I'm not sure at this point. Many questions and doubts need to be answered, preferably by an objective third party.

Here are some of my thoughts about the whole thing, thoughts that are open to revision as things develop.

- ✓ This development represents another step forward in turning Americans into dependents. Certain visits and treatments will be “free”, and some patients will get everything “free”. Who pays for “free”? We all know that we ourselves pay for those freebies, but we don't always realize how good the government has gotten in hiding all the ways it confiscates our money. We just know we work hard, struggle to pay the bills and feed our families, and then pay the co-pays if for some reason we must go to a doctor.
- ✓ Government-funded clinics largely target the “underserved” population. IEHP (Inland Empire Health Plan) covers low-income people with Medi-Cal and Medicare, or a mixture thereof. Medicare itself, of which I am presently a beneficiary, covers seniors. (And yes, I feel guilty that my co-pays are minimal compared to our own staffers' costs!) I'm not sure about Medi-Cal, but even though the recipients pay a monthly premium, Medicare still spends more than it takes in. Only governments can get away with that, either by increasing the theft of your money or by printing more money, which drives up prices for everyone (i.e. inflation).
- ✓ What was the way for this mess is when the government created Social Security under Franklin Roosevelt in 1935 and later Medicare in 1965. In about the same era, employers began to pay for health benefits as a way to attract and keep good employees. By changing health care from a two-party transaction – doctor and patient or hospital and patient -- into a transaction paid for by a third party, many natural elements producing cost control were lost.

✓ The whole system became distorted by this intrusion of “insurance”, which it is not. Insurance is meant to cover the occasional catastrophe. “Health insurance” is instead a way to manage costs and payments, and has embedded into the whole system extra layers of costs with little accountability, since we the customers don't pay our medical expenses directly.

What does all the above blather have to do with our three clinics that are competing for the grant money that will supposedly result in LV having expanded medical services? Well, everything, if you consider that the blather attempts to describe how messed up we have become, forcing us to rely on Big Daddy Government's money to provide for us what we used to provide for ourselves.

Some who heard the presentation expressed the concern that the grant money was the primary incentive and would not be spent responsibly to actually provide medical services to LV. Doctors like Dr. Melvani and Dr. Nguyen are a dying breed, who have served here at great cost to themselves, without grant money to make it work. So why do we need strangers, whose integrity we don't know, to invade our town and possibly hurt the two doctors who are here already? Don't forget, the Bear Valley Community Health van is close to being ready to come down here to enhance the care being offered currently.

I sound like I'm against a clinic being established here, funded by this federal grant. Honestly, I don't know if I'm against it or not. I AM against the expanding control being exercised over us by all levels of government. I AM sorry at the damage that has been done to the American ethos of hard work and individual responsibility.

On a related note, you may be surprised to learn that I am glad that Robert F. Kennedy left the Democrat (some call it Demon-crat) party and has joined President Trump's campaign. One of the issues about which they share conviction is the health crisis in this country. I was unaware of much of what he said, but it fits what I see every day – obesity, cancer, autism, and many more afflictions. He fingered Big Pharma, Big Medicine, Big Food, Big Agriculture and corrupt Big Government agencies creating this blight upon us and fiercely defending their positions. Kennedy was one of the few voices crying in the wilderness against the Covid vaccines as dangerous and untested, which has proven to cause millions of deaths and disabilities.

And we want this coalition of bad apples to fund a clinic in our town?? God, help us!!

Linda Gammel

LVEDA Meeting
(Lucerne Valley Economic Development Association)
COME TO THE NEXT LVEDA MEETING FOR LIVELY DISCUSSIONS ON IMPORTANT ISSUES LIKE THIS!
Monday, September 30th
5:00 pm at the Moose Lodge
on Foothill Road, just west of Tradepost Road.

On The Lighter Side of Serious Stuff . . . from the Web

