

Maternal and Child Health Planning Council

February 21, 2013 Meeting Minutes

Members present: Elais Ponton, Bonnie Keene, Aimee Putnam, and Nicolle Gonzales

Nonvoting members present: Michelle Quintana, PMS Head Start, Marisol Atkins, First Born Program, Magi Gerety, New Vistas, Katie Dry, Santa Fe Baby Fund

Members absent: Janet Aboytes, Kristi Halus, Lori Pearson Kramer

Staff present: Patricia Boies, Health and Human Services Division, Rachel O'Connor, Health and Human Services Division

Others present: Marcia Panagakos, CHRISTUS St. Vincent, Jane Clarke, Santa Fe County Infant Mental Health Team, Mary Overpeck

Patricia Boies called the meeting to order at 12:10.

After introductions and approval of January minutes, Marcia Panagakos, a social worker with the Pediatrics and Women's Services at CHRISTUS St. Vincent, spoke about the increase in pregnant drug-addicted women being seen and giving birth at the hospital. The drugs include opiate prescription drugs, heroin, cocaine, and methadone. Many women are poly-substance abusers, including of alcohol. Premature births and long-term effects are significant. In terms of public policy and impact, consider that most of these babies will become special-needs children entering school in 2017.

The hospital tries to keep the mother and baby together, but there is not always room in the thirteen-bed unit. The babies need much care and attention during their stay of up to five or six weeks. Often there is either family addiction, or the partner or extended family may not be aware of the pregnant woman's drug use. Referrals are made to the Children, Youth and Families Department, which is reluctant to remove babies and strives to place babies with family members.

The numbers are hard to tease out from the 1600 deliveries (including S. Miguel and Rio Arriba), but 2012 saw a marked increase over previous years.

Jane Clark, of the Santa Fe County Infant Mental Health Team, spoke of the intergenerational issues in these families. The babies exhibit "hyper-arousal", without self-regulating capacity, and would be challenging for parents to cope with even were no addictions present. These women are difficult to engage in services. Members agreed that many never come for a developmental evaluation for their babies, even after multiple referrals. But beyond not accepting the existing available resources, there is a need for a "medical home" for these women and their babies, such as the Milagro program, the perinatal substance abuse prevention and treatment program at the University of New

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Mexico in Albuquerque. Milagro offers case managers and substance abuse counselors who provide interdisciplinary services for pregnant women and new mothers, both in a clinic setting and in a residential treatment center. There is no comparable program in Santa Fe County. Frustration was expressed about failed attempts elsewhere, including a large facility built in Los Lunas to handle suboxone and treatment, which has never been used for treatment.

The value of suboxone for pregnant women, which is best for the baby, is undercut by the lack of sufficient doctors in Santa Fe County trained and willing to administer suboxone. Ms. O'Connor noted a concern raised by some in corrections and law enforcement about the high diversion rate of suboxone. There was consensus that training in suboxone must be part of a comprehensive treatment program.

The discussion moved to the broader roles that must be played by education, to improve the resilience of the next generation, and by the economy, to provide jobs that pay well enough to support families and lessen the felt need to escape the stresses of living.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:25.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Boies 3/21/13

Patricia Boies



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STATE OF NEW MEXICO) ss PAGES: 2

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