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SANTA FE COUNTY
HEALTH POLICY & PLANNING COMMISSION
September 2, 2010

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COUNTY OF SANTA FE)
STATE OF NEW MEXICO) ss HEALTH POLICY & PLAN
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MINUTES OF THE
SANTA FE COUNTY
HEALTH POLICY & PLANNING COMMISSION
September 2, 2010

A discussion session of the Santa Fe County Health Policy and Planning Commission was called to order at 8:40 a.m. by Chairman Larry Martinez on the above-cited date at the Santa Fe County Health & Human Services Department, 2052 Galisteo Street, Suite B, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Roll call indicated the lack of the presence of a quorum for conducting official business.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Larry Martinez, Chairman
Terrie Rodriguez, Vice Chairman
Erika Campos
John Cassidy
Fiquet Hanna Duckworth
Elizabeth Reynolds
Ardis M. Thomas
John "Jack" White

MEMBER(s) ABSENT:

Nancy S. Adelsheim, excused
Rick Adesso, excused
Louis Carlos, excused
Arturo Gonzales, Vice Chairman, excused
Melissa Manlove, excused
Dr. Frantz Melio, excused
Beverly Russell, excused
Judith K. Williams, excused

STAFF PRESENT:

Marie Garcia, Health and Human Services Division
Steve Shepherd, Health and Human Services Division
Julia Valdez, Constituent Services Liaison for BCC Commissioner Liz Stefanics

OTHERS PRESENT:

Robin Hunn, Project Access
Lynda Longacre, Project Access
Jo Ann G. Valdez, Stenographer

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Approval of the Agenda was not made due to the lack of quorum.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: August 6, 2010

Chairman Martinez noted that he had some minor editorial revisions to the Minutes and would be willing to share those, if anyone is interested. He asked members if there were any corrections or additions to the Minutes.

Approval of the Minutes of the August 6, 2010 meeting was not made due to the lack of quorum.

DISCUSSION/PRESENTATION

A. Implementation of Electronic Records

Commissioner Gonzales was not present therefore this agenda item was not discussed.

MATTERS FROM THE COMMISSION

A. Health Para Todos Radio Station Update

Chairman Martinez reported that they interviewed Dr. Margaret Gunter, Dr. Robert White and Jeffrey Blair of the New Mexico Healthcare Information Collaborative on last Friday's broadcast. The collaborative includes important New Mexico stakeholders representing health care providers, payers, employers, state agencies and consumers. NMHIC was created in 2004, and continues to be fully staffed and operated by the Lovelace Clinic Foundation (LCF).

LCF is a 501(c)(3) non-profit applied health research organization. Their mission is to create a statewide health information exchange network that is sufficiently trusted and valued by all stakeholders (employees/patients, employers, physicians, health systems and health plans) so that it will improve coordination and continuity of care. The goal is to improve statewide benefits, such as continuity of care and lower costs, by providing rapid access to patient health care information from multiple health care facilities across the community; and to utilize health information technology to provide health care services to rural and underserved populations and encourage the adoption of electronic health records systems in New Mexico by making it easier and less costly to securely share information over electronic networks.

Chairman Martinez noted that they received a lot of positive feedback from the interview.

Commissioner Duckworth asked if they are helping rural community health providers financially, given the cost of implementing electronic records.

Chairman Martinez said that they will provide technical assistance and refer/connect them with possible funding sources.

Commissioner Duckworth noted that there are areas in the State that do not have the infrastructure for this, for example, internet connectivity.

In response, Chairman Martinez said that Commissioner Gonzales is serving on the Lovelace Clinic Research Foundation for Health Information Technology Board and this is one of the issues that they will be addressing. They were given a directive from the Governor to make recommendations on what State activities are necessary in order to bring New Mexico into the 21st century, as far as connectivity, broadband and wireless approaches.

Chairman Martinez reported that they interviewed Glenn Wieringa and Shelley Mann-Lev two weeks prior to the last broadcast. Mr. Wieringa and Ms. Mann-Lev spoke about the "Life of an Athlete" program. The program is focused on providing information to students regarding the negative effects alcohol consumption can have on their athletic performance and their life. Chairman Martinez said they received a good response from this interview also.

Chairman Martinez explained that there is a possibility that they will not have the resources to continue the program. Chairman Martinez and Commissioner Gonzales will meet with representatives of the radio station regarding this.

B. CHRISTUS/St. Vincent Update

Commissioner Campos said that CHRISTUS/St. Vincent Regional Medical Center (CSV) would like to receive feedback from the community with regards to the Community Benefit Fund and their mission. CSV does not know what the process will be for this as of yet. Commissioner Campos offered to provide an update to the Commission once CSV determines the process.

Commissioner Campos reported on the present negotiations between CSV and Lovelace. She said in April of 2009, Lovelace began paying below-contract rates for patients. Lovelace was notified that they were in violation of their contract and they indicated that they did not like the present contract and wanted another one. Lovelace was given 90 days to respond and decided to renegotiate the contract a week or two before the contract terminated. Lovelace and CSV were in agreement on an increase in commercial rates that would help cover the Medicaid cuts that CSV agreed to (approximately \$3 million). Lovelace made a proposal to cut the hospital rates that equates to approximately \$7 million over three years. CSV could not afford this.

Commissioner Campos explained that the Medicare rate is the sticky point. CSV and Lovelace are still at the table trying to negotiate an agreement. She noted that Lovelace is a for-profit entity and they had a profit of \$7 million last year.

Chairman Martinez asked if a deadline has been set for the negotiations.

In response, Commissioner Campos said that there is a Continuity of Care Agreement in place for Lovelace patients who are already receiving treatment or medical care for 60 days or the full course of treatment, whichever is longer.

Commissioner White asked when the termination of the contract is and if CSV has a Continuity of Care Agreement for primary care patients.

Commissioner Campos said the termination date of the contract was August 20th. The Continuity of Care Agreement is for patients who were scheduled or receiving treatment before August 20th. Those patients that were not scheduled before August 20th may have to find a new doctor.

Commissioner Cassidy noted that La Familia Medical Center has been contacted to serve Lovelace patients. He said this is a really tough situation for the patients who are caught in the middle and for providers.

Chairman Martinez said Presbyterian Medical Services is experiencing the same thing. He suggested that Commissioner Campos be a guest on the radio program to report on this further.

Commissioner Rodriguez noted that the senior citizen population will not be able to change providers until the open enrollment period, which is not until November 15th.

In response, Commissioner Campos said CSV will assist patients as much as they can and will not refuse treatment or care for Lovelace patients. She offered to provide an update as they proceed with the negotiations.

C. Update of Healthcare Assistance Recommendations

Chairman Martinez reported that there was a Board of County Commissioners' meeting on Tuesday of this week and the Commissioners adopted the *second* version of the Rules and Regulations to implement the policy changes for the Healthcare Assistance Program by a vote 2 to 1. The second version is the same as the first version, with one exception: The requirement for Social Security numbers for applicants for the Healthcare Assistance Program was excluded.

(Of note: Chairman Martinez presented the recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners at their May 25th meeting and they adopted all six of the recommendations with a 2 to 1 vote. Commissioner Mike Anaya was opposed to the elimination of the social security number requirement because it would open the Healthcare Assistance Program to non-citizens. At the July meeting of the Board of County Commissioners, staff presented the draft Rules and Regulations for the implementation of the policy changes for the Healthcare Assistance Program. As a result of the introduction of this-and all County Commissioners being present - there was a spirited discussion with respect to the elimination of the social security requirement. Essentially what emerged from that discussion was that there was an understanding that the only way that the Board of County Commissioners could reopen the policy decision that was previously made (at the May 25th

BCC meeting) was to have a member that voted on the prevailing side of that issue move to reconsider. This did not happen, so the Board of County Commissioners tabled the draft Rules and Regulations).

Chairman Martinez explained that this set of Rules and Regulations (the one that was adopted at the August 31st BCC meeting) is not in sync with the policy that was previously adopted by the Board of County Commissioners at their May 25th meeting. Therefore, the issue of non-citizens receiving assistance from the Healthcare Assistance Program warrants further discussion.

Mr. Shepherd said he thinks the Board of County Commissioners are going to stay with the requirement of a social security number, however, no final decision has been made.

D. Update of Healthcare Reform Report

Chairman Martinez reported that the Healthcare Reform Report was submitted to the Board of County Commissioners. He informed the Board of County Commissioners that the report is still work in progress because there is still action being taken, or being looked at, in terms of how federal healthcare reform will be implemented.

Chairman Martinez explained that the State budget is probably having a much more immediate impact on what is happening in federal healthcare reform than federal legislation presently because healthcare has seen some significant cuts.

The Healthcare Reform Committee will be meeting sometime in October.

MATTERS OF PUBLIC CONCERN

Ms. Hunn said she would like to be part of the Healthcare Reform Committee. Chairman Martinez said absolutely. He asked Ms. Hunn for an update on SCI (State Coverage Insurance).

Ms. Hunn said that SCI is still taking applications; however, the State does not have any money. She noted that there are presently 23,000 people on the waiting list for SCI. She explained that a lot of these people will be going on Medicaid in 2014.

Ms. Hunn reported that Project Access is exploring a new concept with the hospital called a "Three-Share Program", that is for small businesses. This is a private initiative working with the hospital, the business community and providers that would not involve state or federal funding. Ms. Hunn offered to try and have an update for the October Commission meeting.

Commissioner White said he has seen a change in the contracting practices for insurance companies. The insurance companies have hired pharmacy management programs to manage their pharmaceuticals that the patients are receiving. There is a new set of rules and these pharmaceutical organizations are being much more difficult to deal with - about exceptions or prior authorizations for non-generic medications- than their

predecessors were. This is creating a problem for the providers and consumers. This is allowing people - who do not have medical licenses and have never seen the patient- to make medical decisions and decide what the patient takes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Commissioner Campos announced that CSV will be celebrating its 145th anniversary this year and there will be some celebration events that will go along with this. She noted that they are updating the history book of CSV and will be collecting stories for the book.

Commissioner Campos announced that CSV is sponsoring a health safari sometime in September.

CSV will also be holding their annual breast cancer screening in October.

- A. The next HPPC Regular Meeting is scheduled for October 1, 2010 at 8:30 a.m. (Training class from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.)
- B. The next HPPC Executive Committee Meeting is scheduled for September 15, 2010 at 8:30 a.m.
- C. The next Jail Health Subcommittee Meeting is scheduled for September 15, 2010 at 2:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

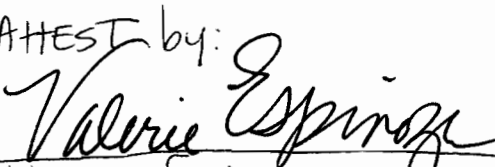
Having completed the agenda and with no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

Approved by:



Larry Martinez, Chairman

Respectfully submitted by:
Jo Ann G. Valdez, Stenographer

Attest by:


Valerie Espinoza
County Clerk



Health Policy & Planning Commission
Meeting: September 2, 2010