

Santa Fe County Maternal and Child Health Planning Council
Meeting Minutes
January 20, 2011

Members in Attendance:

Kim Straus
Lara Yoder
Janet Aboytes
Marcia Panagakos
Magi Gerety

Members Absent:

Lynn Hathaway
Kristi Readyhough
Jacqueline Baca
Jill Reichman
Betty Cardenas

Guests:

Margaret Collins – Cooperative Extension Service
Janice Quinn-CASA, Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children
Ron Hale, DOH, Office of Community Health Partnerships
Barbara Sandoval, DOH Healthy Families, Primeros Pasos

Coordinator:

Lisa Garcia

The meeting was called to order at 12:15 pm.

Introductions were done and there were several announcements. Marsha reported that the birth rate in Santa Fe County has decreased from 2009 to 2010. Marsha shared that she isn't seeing many families from other counties delivering in Santa Fe. There was discussion about testing babies and mothers for drug exposure and Marsha explained what the hospital is allowed to do with internal policies. Janice shared that there is an advocacy program out of New York which has a link on the Children's Law Institute website. There is a workshop (Workshops 2011) called "Prejudice and Punishment", advocacy for pregnant women. It states the New Mexico laws and Janice indicated that she would appreciate any input from those present. Marsha shared that she is seeing a lot more women abusing prescription drugs during their pregnancy. Marsha shared that if a pregnant woman is on drugs, they need to be seen at Perinatal Associates as well as their own OB/GYN because Perinatal Associates sees high risk pregnancies and drug use is considered high risk. Lara shared that they are working with several developers in town on resources for affordable units. A portion of the units are going to be designated for people with special needs, disabilities and homelessness. The Life Link is working with the development to verify applicants meet the requirements. Magi shared that they are working with the CYFD/Infant Mental Health project. She also shared that New Vistas is participating in a federal project to look at early childhood development outcomes. The data has been collected for the past 2 years and an evaluator will be conducting their own evaluation to compare ratings. The FIT program is anticipating cuts for next fiscal year so not as many children will be able to remain in the FIT program once they reach their 3rd birthday. Margaret announced that they are in the middle of their Kids Can nutrition program in the public schools. They are hoping they can work with Capital High School teen mothers using the adult curriculum since the teens are closer to running a household than most other teens. She also announced that she has a Nutrition Educator job opening.

Janice addressed the group with an overview of the CASA program. They have a teen program called "Power Up" which has been around since 2007 and now they have been identified to pilot a new national initiative called "Fostering Futures". This uses a University model that looks at positive youth development and are using assessments that were developed in New Mexico. They are one of sixteen sites and will report back at the end of March which will then be rolled out throughout the country. It serves youth age 14-21 who are aging out of the CASA program. Over 50% of the children they serve are under 5 years old. Last year, 70% of the children coming in were 0-3. They are specializing their CASA advocates to focus on early childhood. They were receiving training at the Las Cumbres Training Institute and the Children's Law Institute. They were able to get 7 volunteers to specialize in early childhood. Their caseload has dropped because of CYFD new safety management and trying to go into kinship guardian. No one is tracking how many times the children have gone into kinship guardians and returned back to CYFD for placement. Currently they have 29 CASA's serving 39 children. Last year, Santa Fe County cases maxed out at 19. In 2003, they had over 98 children. Although the caseload has been reduced drastically, the complexity of issues has gone up as well as the complexity of the law. They have had to work a lot harder on fewer cases. They are looking at launching a pilot to provide mentor advocates for the kids who are adjudicated (13-15 year olds). In New Mexico, CASA volunteers have been implementing the "Power Up" program for 3 years and the New Mexico Child Advocacy Network will be the one that oversees these tools. She is looking to fill a position in late summer for her Program Coordinator so if anyone knows of a qualified person that wants to get into the role of advocacy for children let Janice know. Kim asked if she is seeing issues in the youngest children that the MCH Council can direct its energy towards. She indicated that she doesn't get any feedback from home visiting families on whether the abuse cases have been lower because of receiving these services. She thinks that type of information would be helpful. The main thing they are seeing are that women don't seem to stop having children regardless of how many of their own children they lose to the courts. There is a program in Roswell called FSTR (First Steps Towards Reunification) that a judge started and has had great results. It is being replicated in other judicial districts throughout New Mexico. It involves parents, judge, social worker, service provider, and other parents who have

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lost their children to the system to spend a full day to review the case. With this project being implemented the recidivism dropped to almost nothing and reunified all but 2 cases. It appears that this project has really worked. Barbara shared that her experiences indicate that home visitors have made some impact on families by supporting them through the process of difficult times. Barbara shared that their families are staying in their program a long time, even up to 5 years. Marsha shared that success happens because they are likely to develop a positive long term relationship with their home visitor. There was discussion about better coordination for the families that are hit from all sides. Janice said they don't see that many young children going home after they have been taken away from the family. Janice doesn't see their caseload increasing so she is trying to develop more programs that the volunteers can be involved in where they can make an impact. Their budget is being cut again, 14.5% last year and 2.5% the year before and are looking at another 2% this year. She is looking for training opportunities for the volunteers they work with. She is also trying to see if CYFD is acknowledging the young men that might actually be fathers within the juvenile justice system that go into foster care. She wants to work on a timeline that identifies adjudicated, foster, regular kids and all the agencies that have intervened at some point in their life. This will help identify gaps and duplications so everyone can do a better job. She also discussed coordinating a volunteer fair for agencies that work with youth also so the community can attend and see all the different types of programs in the community that work with youth. Kim emphasized that the investment of \$ nationally is always on older children and not on infants. 2% of the state budget is for early childhood and over 50% is for K-12. Janice shared that New Mexico ranks #3 in spending more per prisoner than per student. CASA volunteers focus on brother, sister, mother or dad who have been or is incarcerated because of the increased risk factors for the children.

Since we had quorum, the minutes from September 16, 2010, October 21, 2010 and November 18, 2010 were approved by Janet and seconded by Marsha.

Kim shared that at the executive committee meeting we discussed the situation with Santa Fe County to issue a new resolution for the MCH Council. Lisa will discuss further.

Under Coordinator's report, Lisa shared with the group that the Health Policy and Planning Commission has already been restructured under their new resolution. It was approved in December and they are in the process now of soliciting new members. She provided an overview of how the resolution was written. The MCH Council resolution will probably go to the BCC in February. She proposed a way of restructuring the council based on the model the New Mexico Health Council Alliance workgroup is proposing to all health councils. There was a handout/diagram shared with the group that would be used as a model for our new structure. Lisa has already been gathering information from current council members on where they live to see if they are able to represent county commission districts. The concern of the group is that the county commission appointed members may not have enough knowledge or interest in maternal and child health issues. Ron brought up the point that the "MCH Plan Act" law enacted in 1992 is still in effect even though the councils aren't funded by DOH anymore. There are certain parts of the resolution that can't be changed but there are others that will represent the uniqueness of our council. Lisa indicated that the mini-grant through DOH Office of Health Equity where there were over 40 applicants. Santa Fe MCH didn't receive that one but is still waiting on the March of Dimes application which is to continue working on the online resource directory with RAND. Lisa shared with the group that a few months ago, the executive committee had discussed a Lullaby CD project to distribute to new mothers. She got a price quote but since the council doesn't have enough money to fund the project, she shared her information with the Statewide Project Launch committee. Several of them liked the idea and want to distribute statewide for their mental health awareness day in May. We would be interested in receiving copies also as well as purchasing additional ones.

Kim had a follow-up report about the fatherhood forum held in August sponsored by the White House and U.S. Department of Agriculture. The New Mexico Alliance for Fathers and Families has now pulled together a formal report on the convening and will be presenting it to the White House next week and to other administration officials. This is the first report to come out of any of the 7 forums held across the country. Hopefully that will bring some grant money to NM to support fatherhood initiatives around the state.

Lisa added that the RAND Corporation is ready to turn their database over to the county to be put on the website but are still waiting to hear back from RAND on a scope of work for the project. Lisa is waiting until they receive the data before contacting the County IT Department. Because of the vision of this project, Lisa contacted Mothering Magazine to see about getting donations to offer incentives for those who access this new web tool. She received a generous donation of over \$2,000 of children's CD's, hardback children's books and Mothering Magazine issues.

Lisa provided an overview of the New Mexico Health Council Alliance to see if the council thought this was a good idea. Lisa passed out an Infant Care workgroup list for people to sign up for. Marsha suggested that maybe wait until the new group and structure is in place to see what the new members interests are. Lisa also shared information about the IBIS system (Indicator-Based Information System). General information about utilizing the system was shared and she also indicated that there is a survey that is going out to DOH employees as well as Health Councils to see how communication/links can be improved.

Lisa announced that the February meeting will be held at the SFPS Teen Parent Center to get an update from the Head Start expansions.

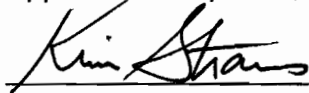
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Lastly, she asked the council how they wanted to respond to a letter that she received from Environment New Mexico regarding toxic air pollution regulations in the U.S. The council members chose not to endorse it because they felt the Health Policy and Planning Commission would be the more appropriate ones to endorse the letter. Information had already been forwarded to them.

Magi mentioned that Jinny Erdley passed away recently. She was a midwife and also worked at New Vistas. She delivered over 1,000 babies in Santa Fe County. She was an active participant of the Home Visiting Network. There was a celebration of her life earlier in the year at the Railyard where many people attended.

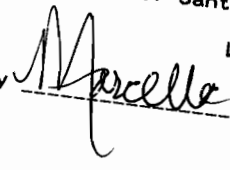
The meeting concluded at 2:00 pm.

Approved on April 21, 2011 by:


Kim Straus, Interim Co-chair


Lara Yoder, Interim Co-chair



COUNTY OF SANTA FE)
STATE OF NEW MEXICO) ss MATERNAL CHILD HEALTH
PAGES: 3
I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for
Record On The 29TH Day Of April, 2011 at 10:59:21 AM
And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 1633660
Of The Records Of Santa Fe County
Deputy  Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office
Valerie Espinoza
County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM

Respectfully submitted by:
Lisa Garcia, MCH Planning Council Coordinator