

Maternal and Child Health Planning Council

October 18, 2012 Meeting Minutes

Members present: Janet Aboytes, Kristi Halus, Bonnie Keene, Lori Pearson Kramer, and Elais Ponton

Nonvoting members present: Kim Strauss, Brindle Foundation; Marisol Atkins, First Born Program

Members absent: Aimee Putnam

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

Others present: Ron Hale; Rosario Roybal, Youth Shelters

Rachel O'Connor called the meeting to order at 12:15 and introduced Patricia Boies, who will staff the MCH Council.

After introductions, Ron Hale, guest speaker who has served on the MCH Council in the past, provided an overview of the origins of the MCH Council since its establishment -- along with councils in other counties and tribes -- 20 years ago pursuant to the New Mexico Maternal and Child Health Plan Act. Initially there was substantial funding from the state Department of Health: \$198,000 a year for Santa Fe County. Starting around 2000, the state began shifting funding to single broader county health councils, and almost every county except for Santa Fe merged their MCH council into a broader health council. Santa Fe County kept the MCH Council and continued the DOH funding stream for the MCH, and funded the separate Health Policy and Planning Commission (HPPC) with county funds.

In 2010, DOH terminated funding of the county health councils, including the Santa Fe County MCH Council. In September 2010, Con Alma Health Foundation funded a gathering for health councils, which elected to revive an association of statewide health councils, called the New Mexico Alliance of Health Councils. In 2012, Kellogg Foundation funded a grant for a New Mexico Health Equity Partnership to be managed by the Santa Fe Community Foundation. The New Mexico Health Equity Partnership will have three health equity related efforts: the New Mexico Alliance for Health Councils; the Place Matters Teams; and Health Impact Assessments. The Santa Fe Community Foundation is in the process of coordinating this new partnership. Money will be available for technical assistance for health councils.

The New Mexico Alliance of Health Councils is seeking \$1.1 million in legislative funding in the 2013 session.

Councilmembers Halus and Aboytes and Kim Strauss described their experience as MCH Council members during the time of transition from maternal and child health councils to

broader health councils, such as the HPPC. Commissioner Halus spoke of the need for a voice for people dedicated to parent and child issues, compared to the broader issues of hospitals and prisons that are part of the HPPC's focus. Even when the MCH Council lost funding for direct services, the opportunity remained for people doing grassroots work with families and young children to get together and share information and resources. In addition, some community foundations supported the MCH council, including Santa Fe Community Foundation and the Brindle Foundation.

Kim Strauss said that the MCH Council has been able to bring attention to specific needs within Santa Fe County, noting the infant care study funded by the Community, Youth and Families Department that showed the lack of infant and toddler child care in Santa Fe County. MCH saw that as a priority, along with setting priorities for breastfeeding.

Commissioner Aboytes concurred that breastfeeding and infant care have been established priorities, and spoke of the MHC Council as a voice for low-income families.

Ms. O'Connor stated that the HPPC focuses on issues such as sole community provider, indigent funding, mobile health unit, and senior centers. The HPPC needs to hear about MCH Council priorities, which can be carried over to the health needs assessment that is to be done. She noted that the County doesn't have direct service dollars; the Board of County Commissioners makes broad determinations of where to allocate funds received through the indigent fund and sole community provider funds.

Ms. O'Connor added that positions for a Nurse Practitioner and an RN are being sought for the state-of-the-art mobile health van.

Members discussed the desire to recognize Virginia Vigil, who will be leaving as Santa Fe County Commissioner in December, and who has been helpful with issues of concern to the MCH Council.

Commissioner Aboytes reported that the Teen Parent Center is in a new location and will have a small room for infant care. She requested donations of baby items, including books, diapers, and wipes, and also is looking for volunteers who could assist for two and a half hours once a week.

Ms. Boies reported that Eirian Coronado, Director of the Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System within the Department of Health, will present at the November 15 meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:20.

Approved: Patricia Boies

Patricia Boies, November 15, 2012

COUNTY OF SANTA FE)
STATE OF NEW MEXICO) ss

MATERNAL CHILD HEALTH
PAGES: 2

I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for
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Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office
Valerie Espinoza
Deputy County Clerk, Santa Fe,

Valerie Espinoza