

Santa Fe County Maternal and Child Health Planning Council
Meeting Minutes
October 21, 2010

Members in Attendance:

Kim Straus
Marcia Panagakos
Janet Aboytes
Betty Cardenas
Jill Reichman

Members Absent:

Lara Yoder
Kristi Readyhough
Jacqueline Baca
Magi Gerety
Lynn Hathaway

Guests:

Michelle Quintana – PMS Head Start Program
Barbara Sandoval – Healthy Families First
Ariele Cordero – Healthy Families First Intern
Nan Schwanfelder – Brindle Foundation
Michael Coop – Coop Consulting

Coordinator:

Lisa Garcia

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

Introductions were done and there were several announcements. Betty shared that the Care Connection received a new grant (ATR) and will be able to issue 20-30 vouchers per month starting December 1st. Michelle announced that she has an Early Head Start Home Visitor that has openings for English speaking families.

Michael Coop shared a power point presentation with the group. The infant care study began in January 2010 and has been submitted to CYFD. Michael shared that there was anecdotal evidence that Santa Fe had worse problems than the rest of the state based on the feedback CYFD had been getting. The study came out with a series of recommendations and some specifically for the MCH Council to address. The steering committee helped Coop along the way in providing feedback, information and recommendations during their meetings. Interviews and a town hall forum provided valuable information during the process. One of the points he brought out was that parents they interviewed regarding finding childcare for their own child had difficulty so they looked into starting their own business. The downfall was that they found it too difficult to maneuver the system. Because of the barriers, it seemed that it was more difficult to try starting a home child care versus a licensed child care center. The internal process seems to be broken. In comparison, Coop staff called Farmington, Las Cruces and Albuquerque to request information about starting a child care business. Within a day, they received all the necessary information while it took them six weeks to receive anything from Santa Fe. Michael reviewed some of the findings that are outlined in the report. One of the things he pointed out was that if someone receives CYFD Child Care subsidies, they only receive about 1/2 - 2/3 of the actual cost of providing the care. There needs to be a mix of families in order to make enough to run the business. During the information gathering phase, it was apparent that some families chose a friend, family member or neighbor to take care of children and more likely they aren't licensed or registered. Kim suggested that we look at other communities and states that are currently addressing the issue of providing resources to these types of families. Maine just allocated a lot of money to provide resources to those that are operating in the informal network (grandparents, neighbors). Group support is also available with the project in Maine. There were specific recommendations for the MCH Council to look at. Some were emphasized on the dilemmas teen parents face especially those that aren't returning to school to finish their education. There were some economic development issues and brainstorming was done on how to turn early childhood into an economic development issue, including incentives to encourage people to think about early childhood business. Kim summarized the recommendations and felt that they were diverse enough to give the council something to work with during the entire 4-year process.

There was also discussion about teen parents. Janet indicated that it's hard to keep girls in school because they are already academically behind. Engagement in other programs are important for their success. Marsha also indicated that she has come across teens that have dropped out of school even before they become pregnant. This shows that there's not even parental support in their child's education if they are allowing this to happen. People like this need a navigator to help them move forward in accessing any services/opportunities they need to succeed. If we focus on economic development for child care, this will empower women to want to work in this field while addressing the problems we have with the lack of infant care in the community. It will help their own child as well as other people's children. This field cannot be undervalued because it involves

the critical early learning years(birth-3). There is so much evidence to support the early years and its importance. Lisa shared a brochure that Coop consulting put together on "how to become a child care provider". It was sent as an attachment to council members. Lisa asked Marsha if she thought it would be a good thing to include in the welcome baby packets. Kim has had a conversation with someone on how to make this an economic development issue. Kim suggested that a subcommittee would be a good first start regarding this recommendation. Janet wanted to share with the group that the 45-hour course for early childhood is already in their conversation with the Dr. Mel Morgan about the possibility of doing a 45-hour course offered at either Santa Fe High or Capital High for both teen parents as well as other students. She would like further conversations as the process is unfolding. Vocational training at the high school level could also be seen as an economic development issue. It would also encourage those students to go on to the community college to further their education. Jill wondered if there was a formula to see if the service tax could be waived once it's looked at more closely. Marsha pointed out that the current regulations are very restrictive on how many babies can be watched in your own home thus, not providing opportunities that would ease the dilemma of not enough child care for babies. Kim suggested that we get Judy Fifield to attend one of our meetings to get her impression of the report. We will also talk to the council members about the next steps in addressing the recommendations.

There wasn't a quorum so the minutes weren't approved.

Lisa reported under old business a status update on the March of Dimes grant proposal and an update on the RAND Corporation/MCH online resource directory. She indicated that she met with the county IT Department and the RAND representative on the logistics of the data. The only thing that seems like is going to hold up the process is that the county attorney's office said we will need some type of MOA/Contract for the data import. The March of Dimes grant will specifically tie in to the marketing and utilization of this directory. It will be for an extra 3 hours per week of Lisa's time to work on this project as well as some money for supplies which would directly focus on the marketing of the online directory. One of the benefits of being a part of the county is that we will be working with the county GIS department to create a layer of Health services where we can map out locations of some of these services. Michelle thought it would also be good to map child care centers. The grant will also help us determine a way to measure the usage of the information in the packets. We talked about offering a gift card, diapers, coupon, etc. as a means of tracking and measuring people that are interacting in some way with the information being provided in the welcome baby packets or online resource directory.

Kim summarized the Health Council convening meeting where they all agreed to form a Health Council Alliance to gain leverage as we seek for funding to support all programs statewide. A summary was sent to members prior to this meeting.

There has been no change in the progress of the membership decision from the BCC and county managers office so members can't be re-appointed or appointed. There are four member terms expiring in November but no action will be taken yet. We will just continue to meet and work on our priorities at this time.

The meeting concluded at 2:00 pm.

Approved on January 20, 2011 by:

Kim Straus *Lara Yoder*

Kim Straus, Interim Co-chair Lara Yoder, Interim Co-chair

ATTEST:

Valerie Espinoza VT

VALERIE ESPINOZA
COUNTY CLERK



Respectfully submitted by:

Lisa Garcia, MCH Planning Council Coordinator

COUNTY OF SANTA FE)
STATE OF NEW MEXICO) ss MATERNAL CHILD HEALTH
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I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for
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Deputy *Valerie Espinoza* Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office
County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM



SFC CLERK RECORDED 1/24/2011