

Maternal and Child Health Planning Council

November 15, 2012 Meeting Minutes

Members present: Janet Aboytes, Kristi Halus, Bonnie Keene, Lori Pearson Kramer, and Aimee Putnam

Nonvoting members present: Kim Strauss, Brindle Foundation; Magi Gerety, New Vistas; Michelle Quintana, PMS Head Start

Members absent: Elais Ponton

Staff present: Patricia Boies, Health and Human Services Division

Others present: Diane Denedy-Frank, DOH; Mary Justice, CARE Connection; Eirian Coronado, PRAMS

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

After introductions, Mary Justice, Program Manager, CARE Connection reported on the spike of opiate-addicted pregnant women at CHRISTUS St. Vincent delivering babies who are themselves addicted, and the difficulty in providing these women and their babies with appropriate services. After the mother is discharged, the baby must stay at least a month, and needs much attention; nurses have to hold these babies twelve to thirteen hours a day. The lack of enough doctors who can prescribe Suboxone and related drugs in Santa Fe means women go without treatment or have to go to Milagro at UNM. The jail is also seeing more of these women. CHRISTUS St. Vincent is working with Dr. Leeman, the medical director at Milagro, and Dr. Andrew Hsi on the best ways to serve addicted babies. In addition, a prescription drug abuse working group is looking at these and related issues.

Magi Gerety commented that New Vistas has also seen a rise this fall in addicted pregnant women and babies. She added that when New Vistas receives referrals of these women from CYFD, it is hard to get the families engaged; only half the women end up participating in the services offered. In response to questions about whether this constitutes child abuse, it seems that CYFD will not remove a baby or child just because the parents are using drugs; not a single child has been put into foster care for that reason since January.

There was some discussion of drug testing of women seeking prenatal care, whether at La Familia or elsewhere. Such testing is not mandatory – there are civil rights issues involved – and Lori Pearson Kramer said that most addicted pregnant women simply do not seek prenatal care.

SEC CLERK RECORDED BY 2/2/2013

Mary Justice urged people who are interested in working on this issue to contact her.

Eirian Coronado, Director of the Pregnancy Risk Assessment and Monitoring System (PRAMS) at the NM Department of Health, gave a presentation on a new report from PRAMS. PRAMS conducts representative public health surveys with women two to six months after they have given birth, asking about preconception, pregnancy, and postpartum experiences, feelings and behaviors. Effort is made to look at social determinants of health and root causes. The report shows disparities by maternal ethnicity, poverty level, and age with respect to, among other indicators, diabetes, pregnancy intention, and use of prenatal care.

One area that struck Ms. Coronado in particular is how little women are aware of fertility; they often didn't know they were pregnant or didn't think they could get pregnant. A question was raised as to what is taught in school. The law includes only a health requirement, not specific information about reproductive health, and school boards interpret educational requirements differently.

Folic acid enrichment has shown a huge drop in congenital birth defects. Currently done mainly through enriching wheat, efforts are underway to work with producers to enrich corn flour and corn products, to reach a wider population in New Mexico.

Positive trends include breastfeeding: close to 92 percent of women in Santa Fe County initiate breastfeeding. Also, there is a decrease in cigarette smoking and cessation of smoking during pregnancy. Alcohol use, however, shows an upward trend during pregnancy.

There was a discussion of births by Cesarean section. In Santa Fe County, 25 percent of births are by C-section, compared to 31 percent nationally. Janet Aboytes said that the teen mothers she sees who use doulas have healthier outcomes, while other teen mothers have more C-sections. Bonnie Keene reported that no longer will Medicaid pay for preterm C-sections unless medically necessary.

Ms. Coronado provided a handout comparing Santa Fe County with the rest of the state, which Ms. Boies will send to MCH Councilmembers. The full PRAMS report has not been printed but is available on-line, and Ms. Boies will e-mail it to the MCH Council.

Ms. Boies reported that an application for a vacant MCH Council position in District 1 is in process. There are still vacancies in District 2 and District 5.

For the mobile van, the Health Division has contracted with an RN for two days a week and is interviewing for another part-time RN and a full-time nurse practitioner.

Ms. Boies reported that CHRISTUS St. Vincent and the Santa Fe County Health Division and Health Policy and Planning Commission have jointly selected a consultant to work on the county health needs assessment/profile. Although CHRISTUS St. Vincent and the County are partnering on the needs assessment/profile, any action plans that follow

SFC CLERK RECORDED 01/22/2013

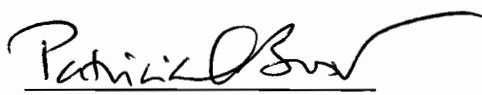
will be done separately. Once the needs assessment/profile is completed, the County Health Division, together with HPPC, will create the county health action plan based on the results of the needs assessment. A focus group will be conducted during the MCH Council meeting on January 17, 2013.

Recognition of outgoing BCC Commissioner Virginia Vigil will take place at the December 11, 2012 meeting of the BCC, beginning at 2:00 pm. MCH Councilmember Kristi Halus and former MCH Councilmember Kathleen Benecke will each make a short tribute to Commissioner Vigil for her support of maternal and child health issues.

There will be no MCH Council meeting in December. All agreed that future meetings will be scheduled to end at 1:30 instead of 2:00 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:20.

Respectfully submitted,

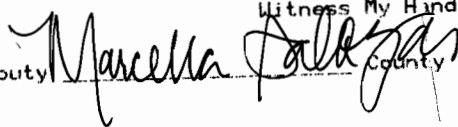


Patricia Boies



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 22ND Day Of January, 2013 at 01:54:16 PM And Was Duly Recorded as Instrumen: # 1694279 Of The Records Of Santa Fe County

Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office
Geraldine Salazar
Deputy  County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM