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Of The Records Of Santa Fe County

Deputy Marcello *Valerie Espinoza* Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office
County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM

MINUTES OF THE

SANTA FE COUNTY

INDIGENT HOSPITAL & HEALTHCARE BOARD

November 30, 2010

This meeting of the Indigent Hospital & Healthcare Board was called to order on the above-cited date in the Legal Conference Room at the County Courthouse at approximately 9:05 a.m. by Chair Harry Montoya.

Roll was called and indicated the presence of a quorum with the following County Commissioners present:

Members Present:

Harry Montoya, Chair
Virginia Vigil, Vice Chair
Kathy Holian
Liz Stefanics
Mike Anaya

Member(s) Excused:

None

Staff Present:

Katherine Miller, County Manager
Penny Ellis-Green, Deputy County Manager
Rachel Brown, Deputy County Attorney
Joseph Gutierrez, Community Services Director
Steve Shepherd, HHS Director
Greg Smith, Healthcare Assistance Program Manager
Priscilla Vigil, Indigent Claims Investigator
Lisa Roybal, Constituent Liaison

Others Present:

Larry Martinez, HPPC
Alex Valdez, CEO for CHRISTUS St. Vincent
Kathy Etre, Contractor for CHRISTUS St. Vincent

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

No changes were suggested and upon motion by Commissioner Anaya and second by Commissioner Holian, the agenda was unanimously [4-0] approved. [Commissioner Stefanics was not present for this action.]



SFC CLERK RECORDED 02/23/2011

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: October 26, 2010

Mr. Smith noted the following corrections on page 2:

Paragraph 6: "Alex Valdez said ~~CHRISTUS St. Vincent Medicaid also~~ took about a \$7.5 million ~~hit for CHRISTUS St. Vincent cut from Medicaid~~, with another \$6.7 million cut anticipated. Statewide there will be an \$80 million impact."

Paragraph 7: "Mr. Martinez said the Medicaid matching ratio will be 69-31 as opposed to the current 80-20 from the stimulus package."

Paragraph 8: "...CHRISTUS St. Vincent Sports Medicine unit program."

Upon motion by Commissioner Holian and second by Commissioner Anaya the minutes were approved [4-0] as corrected. [Commissioner Stefanics was not present for the action.]

MATTERS OF PUBLIC CONCERN – NON-ACTION ITEMS

None were offered.

FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR FY 2011

- A. Comparison of FY 2010 to FY 2011 Claims**
- B. Sole Community Provider Hospital**
- C. Contracted Expenditures for FY 10 and FY 11**

Mr. Smith said these reports are informational. He said the dollars were being drawn down quickly and the providers have been advised that supplemental funds will not be available. He also noted that June 2010 figures were rolled into the July numbers which increased fiscal year 2011 numbers.

Mr. Smith said the contracted expenditure sheet would be updated next fiscal year to reflect that the Santa Fe Clubhouse is under the Life Link umbrella, Rio Grande Treatment Center and Una Ala are closed. Those facilities will show up on the FY10 and FY11 sheet for comparison purposes.

BUSINESS

A. Coast2Coast Discount Prescription Card Program

Mr. Smith said staff is recommending the County switch prescription discount card providers to use the Coast2Coast Rx card. The change will offer better value to Santa Fe County residents. The savings appear to be 39.5 percent which is double what the current discount prescription card providers.

Coast2Coast will work directly with the pharmacies to distribute the cards. The current card provider requires distribution through the efforts of Santa Fe County staff. Coast2Coast has mentioned the possibility of a royalty fee paid to the County which depends on volume and ranging from \$.50 to \$.75 per prescription.

Commissioner Vigil thanked staff for researching this item. She said there were many discount cards out there. She asked whether the HPPC reviewed the recommendation. Mr. Smith

said HPPC does not meet during December.

Mr. Shepherd said Coast2Coast was reviewed based on a referral and staff has not conducted a comparison of other programs.

Larry Martinez, HPPC Chairman, said the original plan for distribution of discount prescription cards was reviewed and endorsed by the HPPC. He offered HPPC's services.

Commissioner Stefanics asked how many people utilized the current card program. Mr. Shepherd said last month there were 996 individual users. He said as far as card distribution there was no tracking mechanism.

Commissioner Stefanics asked whether NACo was supporting Coast2Coast and Mr. Shepherd said at this point they are not. Commissioner Montoya confirmed that NACo has a contract with Caremark and cannot endorse other providers at this point.

Mr. Shepherd identified the downsides of the new card to be the transition itself and two pharmacies (Lovelace and the Indian Health Hospital) are not in the program but are being contacted by the program.

In terms of the transition, Mr. Shepherd said Coast2Coast works directly with the pharmacies and the consumer should have no problem switching out cards. Staff will have some involvement in the distribution.

Commissioner Stefanics asked staff to investigate if there was a County mailer that the cards could be distributed in. She said a comprehensive PR campaign was necessary to educate the residents about savings.

Commissioner Montoya said Coast2Coast is willing to do publicity and is open to suggestions. Commissioner Montoya agreed that avoiding consumer confusion was a priority.

Commissioner Vigil recommended postponing a decision on this until staff has an opportunity to investigate and compare vendors.

In response to the concern that no records were kept on cardholders, Mr. Shepherd said the fact that the program is anonymous and there is no qualifying was a selling point. He mentioned that there is a population in Santa Fe that will not disclose any information.

Responding to Commissioner Vigil's question about a mailer insert in a tax bill, Deputy County Attorney Brown said while she'd need to review the legality of it there were logistical problems because of the manner in which the tax bill is designed.

County Manager Miller said staff could investigate the idea of inserting the card or information regarding the program in a County mailing. She said discussion with the pharmacies was probably necessary to make sure the transition is seamless. She concurred with Mr. Shepherd that the anonymity of the program is what makes it so attractive.

Mr. Shepherd said there is a 90-day prescription mail order option for Coast2Coast as well as the current NACo card.

Lisa Roybal mentioned that Coast2Coast offers additional discounts with imaging and laboratory services and staff is working with vendors.

Mr. Shepherd said staff surveyed counties that transitioned from the NACo vendor to Coast2Coast and found the majority of the counties said the transition went well.

Commissioner Montoya said Coast2Coast is working hard to avoid glitches. He said the Coast2Coast representative offered to honor the high end of \$.75 per prescription royalty to Santa Fe County. Dallas County, which is tremendous, receives \$10,000 to \$13,000 monthly.

Mr. Shepherd said a contract with Coast2Coast offers a 30-day cancellation clause. He said the County with the royalty and the consumers with the discount were the only entities gaining from this program.

Commissioner Vigil moved to forward this item to the December 14th BCC meeting for action, following a review and recommendation from the HPPC Executive Committee. Commissioner Holian seconded and the motion passed by unanimous [4-0] voice vote. [Commissioner Anaya was not present for this action.]

B. UPDATE: Health Policy and Planning Commission

Mr. Martinez reported that HPPC continues to work on the Healthcare Reform analysis. The second part of the analysis focuses on the impact the reform will have to state budget reductions on local providers and the healthcare structure in Santa Fe County.

He recognized HPPC members Judith Williams and Erika Campos for their wonderful work on a survey instrument to better understand the impact of the reform. Reductions have been noted in Medicaid reimbursements for hospitals, reductions in maternal and child healthcare funding, family planning funding, rural primary healthcare act funding, -- and the survey will help to gauge the impact of those reductions. He expected to have data by the end of the calendar year to better illustrate the pressures on the Indigent Fund program. He said it appears that state budget reductions are having an immediate effect upon healthcare provider operations.

Mr. Martinez distributed a report by New Mexico Society for Acupuncture and Asian Medicine, *Why the New Mexico Healthcare System Needs Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine*, citing it as one of the most remarkable reports the HPPC has received. Fiquet Hanna Duckworth provided the report which outlined alternative and complementary medicine and its importance in the Santa Fe community. Dr. Duckworth is a member of the HPPC and a licensed doctor of Oriental Medicine.

Mr. Martinez agreed with Dr. Duckworth's finding that as federal health care reform and state budget reductions are implemented, the role of alternative and complementary medicine providers will become increasingly important. Evidencing the veracity of the report, Mr. Martinez noted that CHRISTUS St. Vincent is hiring alternative/complementary medicine providers to prepare people for conventional treatments.

Commissioner Holian said she talked with Santa Fe County's Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Assistant Chief Martin Vigil who told him that in 1918 (Spanish Flu Epidemic) over half the population of people 20- to 40-year age group died. People who used homeopathic remedies had a much lower death rate.

C. CHRISTUS St. Vincent Regional Medical Center

Alex Valdez, CHRISTUS St. Vincent, CEO, said the hospital has extended a temporary contractual relationship with Lovelace. He said the meeting with the County Commission was very helpful in resolving the issues and the enactment of a temporary contract. Ultimately, a four-year contract was signed with Lovelace.

Mr. Valdez said the hospital took a \$5 million hit primarily in Medicare. Lovelace had been paying 140 percent of Medicare. During the course of the four-year contract, those rates will be dropping to 103 percent. He assumed the same would occur with Medicaid reimbursement rates.

Mr. Valdez said the paratransit contract with the City has been signed. He said he would continue to discuss expanding the distance with the City.

The hospital is working to make payments back through July 1, 2010 with the jail pharmaceutical provider, Diamond Drugs. Ms. Brown commented that she talked to the hospital's counsel and the County terminated their contract with Diamond Drugs back to July 1st.

Mr. Valdez said the hospital would be placing \$450,000 to \$500,000 into community benefits. He said the hospital would like to see that funding driven toward behavioral health. An interim committee that includes five HPPC members are working on the issue.

Mr. Valdez said the hospital would continue to help Las Cumbres's early childhood behavioral health program. Project Access, a reimbursement program particularly for specialists providing services to the uninsured, will be funded at approximately \$300,000.

Regarding Coast2Coast, Mr. Valdez expressed concern that the lab and imaging savings may have an impact on the hospital.

Ms. Miller asked about the uncompensated services for physicians that have accumulated over the first five months. She said this is a problem for the community and Mr. Valdez said the hospital was going into contract negotiations with the doctors in December and he would look into that. This is the medical director contract.

D. Matters from the Board

Commissioner Stefanics suggested the health van park at grocery stores and schools and modify the times. Mr. Shepherd said not all shopping centers welcome the health van and he cited Lowe's on St. Michaels as an example. He said the schedule can be adjusted.

Mr. Shepherd said the health van tries to avoid duplicating efforts with the Healthy Tomorrows Van.

Mr. Martinez said the Healthy Tomorrows van was in an accident in August and sustained heavy damage. The Santa Fe Public Schools owns the vehicle and he anticipated it would be back on the road in February or March. The van focuses its services on elementary

schools: Salazar Elementary, Sweeney, Ortiz, Ramirez Thomas, and Cesar Chavez. The van services the students as well as their families.

Mr. Martinez said PMS lost \$35,000 in funding for the van and the schedule will need to be modified to three days down from four days.

Mr. Martinez welcomed the Mobile Health Care Van participating in servicing the schools. He suggested coordinating efforts.

Commissioner Stefanics said she brought up the scheduling in hopes the van could be present when families were picking up students.

Commissioner Vigil said the Superintendent of Public Schools stated that 75 percent of Santa Fe's student population receives reduced lunch rate. Last year that figure was 62 percent.

Mr. Shepherd said he was advised by the Department of Health that TB test were no longer offered for free to the community.

D. Approval of Indigent Hospital and County Healthcare Claims

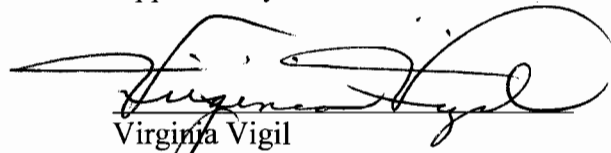
There were no issues that required meeting in executive session.

Commissioner Holian moved to approve 895 claims totaling \$892,353.94 as recommended by staff, and Commissioner Stefanics seconded. The motion passed by unanimous [5-0] voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT


This meeting adjourned at approximately 10:05 a.m.

Approved by:



Virginia Vigil
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST TO:


VALERIE ESPINOZA
COUNTY CLERK

Respectfully submitted by:


Karen Farrell, Wordswork

