## Santa Fe County Maternal and Child Health Planning Council Meeting Minutes February 17, 2011

Members in Attendance:

Kim Straus Lara Yoder Janet Aboytes Lynn Hathaway Members Absent:
Marcia Panagakos
Kristi Readyhough
Jacqueline Baca
Jill Reichman
Magi Gerety
Betty Cardenas

Coordinator: Lisa Garcia

Guests:

Ron Hale, DOH, Office of Community Health Partnerships Nan Schwanfelder, Brindle Foundation Roberta Cheek, Care Net Pregnancy Center Michelle Montoya, Youth Shelters Michelle Quintana, PMS Head Start Liz Mueller, SFHS Teen Parent Center Laurie Allocca, Holy Faith Pre-School Wren Abbott, Santa Fe Reporter

The meeting was called to order at 12:25 pm.

Introductions were done and there were several announcements. Kim announced that there is a bill before the legislature to amend the constitution that would increase the take from the permanent fund for education starting at birth and would raise the permanent fund distribution to 7% where the additional funds would be dedicated to early childhood programs (home visiting, child care subsidy, FIT, other education services). Lisa mentioned a few other bills that she identified that could have an impact on families with young children. They are to create task forces for a family friendly workforce and substance abuse in prenatal care. She also passed out flyers about the Christus St Vincent facilities throughout the community. Lara shared that at the Life Link is the local leading agency for a couple of new housing projects. They are specifically for people who are homeless or have disabilities.

Michelle updated the group on some of the new head start sites. They received some funds to expand their early head start programs. They had been at the same funding level in Santa Fe for over 10 years for early head start. There were only 24 early head start slots and 33 home based slots. With AARA funds, they released new funding to expand early head start. PMS received funding to increase center based slots by 120 and 11 home based slots. They have opened 5 new sites that are serving children weeks-3 years old. They hired 46 new staff positions, 38 were teachers and 1 is a home visitor. In addition, they added a half-time "" early head start education coordinator, Laurie Allocca. In total, they are serving 188 children in Santa Fe County. Their waiting list for early head start is 150 income eligible families. In addition, they have over 40 families on the waiting list that are over income guidelines (above poverty level). They currently have over 30 children with IFSP's in the program. All children receive developmental and social-emotional screenings, including physical and dental care. They get basic health screenings or refer families to a health care facility where they can get them. Michelle explained the partnership they have created with the schools. There are 2 new centers on high school campuses, taking over the nursery at Santa Fe High and opening two portables at Capital High. At the high schools, 2/3 of the families are teen parents and the others are filled by the community at large. The head start requirements state that they have always be 100% enrolled so they can't hold a slot for students. Janet added that they are still providing parenting education just as they did previously. They also have an academic online classroom in the middle of campus and are still providing case management even though head start has a family service assistant. There are challenges as teens have babies on whether there will be a slot for them. There hasn't been any issues regarding this yet but Janet and Michelle continue discussions.

Laurie shared that her center, Holy Faith Childcare is closing because the church can't continue subsidizing the program any longer. Kim shared that the same thing is happening at Santa Fe Community College. Laurie shared that the Santa Fe New Mexican is going to be doing an article regarding the closing. She shared that if their center could have been receiving the full

amount of tuition from the CYFD subsidized families, they would have ended up slightly in the black but since subsidies aren't that high, they were operating at a loss. Laurie heard that another center closed a classroom and another laid off a teacher. Kim shared that many early childhood people are trying to see if the governor's discretionary funding can go toward the child care subsidies that have been cut. There was also discussion about the star rating system and how it also impacts the subsidy rate. Lisa added that she just met with the director of the Choices for Families Home Based Centers Program and that the CYFD Licensing Bureau issued new guidelines that reduce the number of children that they can take care of from 6 to 5. Laurie shared that it is because the fire code is getting stricter and any home that take care of 6 children will now have to install commercial fire protection systems and commercial equipment and that would be too costly for homes to comply with.

Michelle shared that because of the economy and other centers closing, they didn't have a difficult time filling all their new positions. They have educational requirements (CDA, AA, BA) for each of their teachers. The SFCC don't have all the classes offered that these teachers would need so a lot of the staff take online courses. They seem to have more expectant mothers than ever before so they are able to educate them prenatally about child development. Michelle also added that the new funding may not continue into the future. Obama's budget has head start and early head start funded well but the other proposed budget removed the expansion that occurred with stimulus money.

Before Lara left, she shared that the Life Link is working on a SAMHSA grant called "Healthy Homes". It will allow them to work with 50 households and provide peer support and other support services to help that family become self-sufficient. Wren Abbott indicated she chose to attend this meeting because she wants to hear about what's available for families before bad things happen to kids as well as what supports we have in the community for kids. Kim indicated that all families need support services so they are stronger families. This goes with what we chose as one of our priorities and we need to continue focusing on what opportunities these families need so their kids are healthy and safe, etc.

The members took a tour of the head start classrooms on campus

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Lisa jumped down to the agenda item "state/county/grant funding updates". She shared that we didn't receive the March of Dimes 5. Lisa jumped down to the agenda item "state/county/grant funding updates". She shared that we didn't receive the interior of puriod of pu state law establishing an MCH council but Ron said it wasn't a mandate. Lynn felt that if there was an HPPC, there should also be an MCHPC. Kim felt that it is up to the council and community supporters of young children to see if this is something to advocate est for keeping in the county budget. Kim felt that there would be very little accomplished without a Coordinator and things like resource directories, brochures on home visiting services, trainings, welcome baby packets wouldn't happen without a Coordinator. Kim shared that we are a county of sufficient size and should have a funded Coordinator position. Ron indicated that they applied for a special appropriation through Senator Bingaman's office but Obama indicated he wouldn't sign anything that had earmarks. Because of that statement, the funding didn't come through. Lisa had been trying to plan for the remainder of this fiscal year by determining how many resource directories and welcome baby packets she must have to provide to the community before the funding is completely cut. Kim was exploring options of trying to come up with money to match anything the county would allow so the council wouldn't completely go away. Ron added that if this council goes away, there's no one to speak for babies, mothers, fathers and young children. It will become a voiceless population. Kim suggested that he would be happy to come up with several messages in response to the county's budget. It should highlight the accomplishments and future projects. The council has been in existence for 18 years. Wren asked for contact information for the people in attendance at the meeting. Lisa will e-mail her the contact information.

Under the father's report Lisa shared a fatherhood government website that she picked up at the Zero to Three conference. Kim shared that there is supposed to be an extra \$25,000,000 for fatherhood initiatives and the NM Alliance for Fathers and Families has positioned itself well to try getting a grant for New Mexico to do some coordinating of programs that address fatherhood involvement. The alliance made a report to the White House and NM was the only site to put on a fatherhood forum that was initiated locally and the only site that submitted the report to the White House and it's being widely distributed nationally and locally to policy makers.

The meeting concluded at 2:00 pm.

Approved on April 21, 2011 by:

Kim Straus, Interim Co-chait

Lara Yoder/Interim Co-chair



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MATERNAL CHILD HEALTH

I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for Record On The 29TH Day Of April, 2011 at 10:59:22 AM And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 1633661 Of The Records Of Santa Fe County

Hand And Seal Of Office Wi/tness Valerie Espinoza Clerk, Santa Fe, NM

Respectfully submitted by:

Lisa Garcia, MCH Planning Council Coordinator