

Santa Fe County Maternal and Child Health Planning Council
Meeting Minutes
February 18, 2010

Members in Attendance:

Kim Straus
Jacqueline Baca
Lara Yoder
Jill Reichman

Coordinator:

Lisa Garcia

Members Absent:

Valery Henderson
Magi Gerety
Marcia Panagakos
Kristi Readyhough
Janet Aboytes
Betty Cardenas
Lynn Hathaway

Guests:

Michelle Quintana-PMS Head Start
Carol Tyrrell, DOH Maternal and Child Health Bureau
Kathleen Benecke-Las Cumbres Community Services,CIP
Leroy Goats-United Way of Santa Fe
Leigh Fernandez- SFCC TTAP Program
Dan Ritchie, TEACH New Mexico
Dennis Hudson-Community Planning Associates
Kate Cirillo, Catholic Charities
Liz Mueller, SFHS Teen Parent Center
Amy Cinchat, Life Link Successful Living

Michael Coop, Coop Consulting
Jessica Ladd, Coop Consulting
Ariana, Coop Consulting
Martha Payne, Coop Consulting
Laurie Alocca, Holy Faith
Julie Peet, Many Mothers
Mary Curry, Life Link Successful Living
Hinu Dittmar, Northern New Mexico College
Patricia Gallegos, Life Link Successful Living
Don McAvinchey, DOH Healthy Families First

The meeting was called to order at 12:10 pm.

Introductions and announcements were done. Kate Cirillo announced that they may be looking for a temporary part-timer for the teen parent program. Lara Yoder announced that there is a flyer for the National Coalition to End Child Homelessness conference being held in March in Albuquerque. Lisa will forward flyer to the group. Kim Straus announced that March 5th Adelante is holding an art sale fundraiser. Mary Curry said their phone number is 989-4400 x104 and people could get a hold of her about the new Successful Living Program. Dan Ritchey shared that the New Mexico Association of the Education of Young Children conference will be March 6th with Becky Bailey as the keynote speaker. The preconference speaker on March 5th will be Ellen Lawinsky.

We moved on to the discussion with Michael Coop and the study he's been contracted to perform. Kim opened up by stating that the TTAP program at SFCC received a grant through CYFD to study infant care in Santa Fe County. CYFD staff kept hearing that quality and affordable infant care was harder to come by in Santa Fe than anywhere in the state. The Santa Fe MCH Council has heard the same thing for quite a while also. Michael Coop indicated they have just begun the process at this time. There is also an infant care advisory committee who has already met once. A one-page handout was distributed on the methods they will be using to collect the data. Michael indicated they want a conversation with those present on what it is we should find out and secondly is to get input on the content that should be included based on past experiences and expertise. There was a lot of discussion and input from many people.

"What should we find out about infant care in Santa Fe County?" was the opening to the discussion. Topics of discussion included:

- What's available geographically
- Accessibility, availability and affordability
- How do we find out about private and church based providers (newmexicokids.org) (only covers registered and licensed providers)
- Look at past records from the state to see who used to be a provider but have since dropped
- Hard to find providers from the CYFD list that have open slots
- Co-pays are too high for some families even if they qualify for CYFD subsidy
- Every infant should be able to receive the same quality of care
- Look into the child/caregiver ratio and compare to other states
- Home visitors would be a good source of information for care needed
- Number of providers that will take children that are not potty-trained
- Number of providers that do infant care is limited(home care providers can only have 2 children under 2 years)

- Overhead costs of centers prohibit the child/teacher ratio to be low enough for the requirement of those under 2
- What are parents looking for (center or home)
- Find out about programs in other church child care programs
- Child care facilities are required to be licensed whether or not they are in a church
- Create an inventory of slots, manager, phone #, address, star rating (Leigh has provided that to Coop Consulting)
- Employer based programs
- How much do parents know about the child care star rating system or what quality means to the development of their child
- What is the pay and level of education of child care workers

We moved on to listening to the experiences Dennis Hudson had when conducting the study 10 years ago. Highlighted were:

- No improvement in the last 10 years
- Getting cooperation from the licensed child care centers (mistrust)
- Group meetings may help
- Biggest challenge was finding unlicensed childcare (relative, neighbors)-no way to get that information
- Looked at the benefits child care staff were receiving that were provided by employer (insurance, free child care, etc)
- What services did the childcare center provide? (free diapers)
- Looking at quality of care should be a significant part of the study
- Looked at Los Alamos as a benchmark when analyzing Santa Fe County
- Visit each and every infant care program in Santa Fe County
- Poll state and hospital employees to see who they use for child care
- Commuter care is something to look at including the department of transportation

More discussion included:

- Ask parents what they know about child care and what quality care means (Julie added that they offer parents a packet of resources about what to ask when seeking child care. SFCC used to offer something like that also).
- Families may not have a choice of where they can take their child (affordability, location, times, wait list)
- How many families is CYFD turning down for childcare assistance?
- Child care subsidies aren't enough to allow the center to operate easily so they are then going out of business
- Parents can't afford the co-pay even with the help from CYFD
- Does quality child care include a cultural element (what does quality infant care mean and does it include a cultural component)
- Trust element when choosing provider for baby
- Flexibility of child care hours (early, late, weekends)
- Look at the many systems in place (family day care, center based care, employer supported care, etc)
- Ellen Lawinsky in a study nationally has indicated that: relative day care is the worst care, home based day care is not as good as center based care, which is usually rated better.
- Educating parents is key to the quality care
- There is a backwards way of getting into the quality issue. NM has some of the lowest standards in the nation. It is important to try improving the child care standards which will eventually raise the levels in many arenas.
- Without child care, our economy would collapse because people wouldn't be able to go to work.
- Families have a hard time coming up with materials fees, registration fees, activity fees, field trip fees, etc.
- CYFD only covers a portion of the day instead of 7:30-5:30. They may only cover from 8-3:30 and the extra care creates a higher fee that parents can't afford.
- Survey can be done through the hospital about child care plans for their new baby. Jacki went through the process 3 years ago when she had her daughter at St. Vincent's.
- Find out how many parents actually would like to stay home and raise their children by choice.
- Informal networks are important to gather data on.

Michael reviewed the handout he prepared. He indicated they would like to talk to infant care providers, day care providers that don't provide infant care and why they don't, pediatricians, case managers, etc. They are starting with the professional community and will then start working with the parents to gather the relevant data. Their focus will be under 2 years of age.

Michael invited anyone who has an interest to participate in the steering committee and announced that the next meeting will be held on March 15th at the new Head Start facility on Ania Fria from 11-1

As a wrap-up of the meeting Kim wanted to mention that there's a possibility the DOH could cut funding to health councils as well as other prevention programs. It was mentioned that there was a government efficiency task force recommending elimination all councils. Lisa has been forwarding e-mails that have updates regarding these cuts. The Board of County Commissioners is also looking at consolidating various boards and commissions. The MCH council would be a workgroup instead of an independent Council. They may not be able to do that since the council is in state statute. We will keep the Council informed on the status of this also.

The meeting concluded at 2:00 pm.

Approved on April 15, 2010 by:



Kim Straus

Kim Straus, Interim Co-chair

Lara Yor

Lara Yor, Interim Co-chair

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
Record On The 23RD Day Of April, 2010 at 03:21:09 PM
And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # **1596858**
Of The Records Of Santa Fe County

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

ATTEST:

Valerie Espinoza
VALERIE ESPINOZA
COUNTY CLERK



Respectfully submitted by:

Lisa Garcia, MCH Planning Council Coordinator

SFC CLERK RECORDED 04/23/2010