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Deputy Marcella [Signature] )  
Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office  
Valerie Espinoza  
County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM

**MINUTES OF THE**  
**SANTA FE COUNTY**

**INDIGENT HOSPITAL & HEALTH CARE BOARD**

**February 22, 2011**



Chair Virginia Vigil called this meeting of the Indigent Hospital & Health Care Board to order on the above-cited date in the Legal Conference Room at the County Courthouse at approximately 9:02 a.m.

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

**Members Present:**

- Virginia Vigil, Chair
- Liz Stefanics, Vice Chair
- Robert Anaya
- Kathy Holian
- Danny Mayfield

**Member(s) Excused:**

None

**Staff Present:**

- Katherine Miller, County Manager
- Penny Ellis-Green, Deputy County Manager
- Steve Ross, County Attorney
- Rachel Brown, Deputy County Attorney
- Joseph Gutierrez, Community Services Director
- Steve Shepherd, HHS Director
- Greg Smith, Health Care Assistance Program Manager
- Priscilla Vigil, Indigent Claims Investigator
- Annabelle Romero, Corrections Director
- Chris Barela, Constituent Liaison

**Others Present:**

- Alex Valdez, CEO for CHRISTUS St. Vincent
- Kathy Etre, Contractor for CHRISTUS St. Vincent
- Rebecca Frenkel, League of Women Voters
- Judy Williams, League of Women Voters

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Commissioner Holian moved to approve the agenda. Her motion was seconded by Commissioner Stefanics and passed by unanimous [5-0] voice vote.

SEC CLERK RECORDED 03/31/2011

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES: January 25, 2011**

Commissioner Holian moved to approve the minutes as published. Her motion was seconded by Commissioner Stefanics. The minutes were unanimously [5-0] approved

**MATTERS OF PUBLIC CONCERN – NON-ACTION ITEMS**

Two representatives from the League of Women Voters, Rebecca Frenkel and Judy Williams, introduced themselves and were welcomed to the meeting.

**MATTERS FROM THE BOARD**

Commissioner Mayfield suggested putting a sign outside the legal conference room that a public meeting was occurring.

**FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR FY 2011**

**A. Comparison of FY 2010 to FY 2011 Claims**

Mr. Smith said this is presented monthly for informational purposes. He noted they were doing exceptionally well on claims, far exceeding last year.

**B. Sole Community Provider Hospital**

Mr. Smith stated this shows the total amounts expended in reimbursements to the sole community provider hospitals through the end of last month.

**C. Contracted Expenditures for FY 10 and FY 11**

Mr. Smith said this shows the remaining balances for providers including today's approvals. He pointed out La Familia has nearly expended their allocation. In response to a communication disseminated by La Familia stating they were getting no more money from the County Mr. Smith asked that La Familia assure their constituents they would be helped out by a sliding scale fee schedule.

Commissioner Stefanics commented that the legislature is looking at cutting primary care funding by 27 percent. Noting there was a letter to the editor from the president of the board at Pecos Clinic regarding loss of the ambulance service due to lack of funds, she asked how the County would respond to that. Ms. Smith indicated there is currently no additional monies to add to their allocation. However, toward the end of the fiscal year in May and June, if there is extra money available it could go towards payment of remaining claims. He added they have had to do this in past. Mr. Shepherd said it would be up to the Board to prioritize the claims. Regarding the stacking of claims the state has a first-in first out policy, but this generally applies to hospitals.

Ms. Miller asked if the balances remaining from last year have been encumbered, and Mr. Smith said those dollars drop to cash. Mr. Shepherd said he believed the purchasing orders have been liquidated. Ms. Miller stated those should be cleared up within 90 days.

Mr. Smith said providers now have up to 120 days to submit claims, so they kept PO's

open as late as possible. However, Finance now requires the claims to be closed by July.

**D. CHRISTUS St. Vincent Regional Medical Center**

Alex Valdez, CHRISTUS St. Vincent CEO, asked if any claims for St. Vincent's were going to be approved that morning and Ms. Smith said there were 229 claims scheduled for approval. Mr. Valdez stated there has been \$2.8 million in unpaid claims through the end of November and they anticipate having an annualized \$6.7 to \$6.8 million in claims approved at a run rate of \$3.5 million by the end of this fiscal year.

Mr. Valdez said Option 5 would generate \$12.5 million with the hospital taking care of the CARE Connection and the Sobering Center. The anticipated loss of sole community provider funds would amount to a net impact of \$10 million, or \$15 million for the two fiscal years. His job is to try to reduce the impact by looking at the expense structure. He said he has been speaking with both the City and County. He noted that it appeared Finance has already cut jail medical. He said sole community provider funds are now a state issue, with a \$45 million impact and he sees no new revenue sources. He said everyone is hunkering down, but there are still options to be explored.

Commissioner Stefanics asked if St. Vincent filed 990's separate from CHRISTUS, and Mr. Valdez said CHRISTUS puts in for all the hospitals. Mr. Valdez said there have been positive net margins over the last eight years except for FY 08, after which there was a move back to the black.

Commissioner Holian asked what percentage of total billing goes into indigent care, bad debt, etc. Noting it was complicated, Mr. Valdez said he would have to research that as far back as possible. He added that indigent claims accounting has become more disciplined lately.

**E. Update on Mobile Health Van**

Angela Thorndyke said there are currently two staff members – the driver, Gerald Smith and herself, acting as nurse. The outreach specialist retired so she now undertakes that responsibility. Rural visits now constitute 68 percent of the total and total activity is up, except in total patient visits due to the rural volume being less and the driver being out for eight weeks.

Ms. Thorndyke highlighted that they have been participating in a Harvard-initiated survey that should result in figures on return on investment, meaning how much money is saved by doing screenings, immunizations, flu shots, etc. She anticipated the savings would be in the millions of dollars. Ms. Thorndyke gave a power point presentation delineating specifics of activities and describing new locations they are visiting.

Commissioner Holian thanked Ms. Thorndyke for her efforts at reaching locations in District 4.

Commissioner Stefanics suggested contacting Kristine Mihelcic for help in getting the word out, and using weekends to maximize client participation.

Commissioner Anaya asked if information was provided about the indigent program, and

Ms. Thorndyke said she has a substantial packet of information she provides on all sorts of services. She said some demographic data is gathered, although this is necessarily selective due to the where the van sets up.

**VI. Matters from the Board**

Commissioner Holian asked if the hospital was planning on purchasing Physicians Plaza. Mr. Valdez said the hospital is not working on that. At one point they looked into obtaining a majority interest, but no longer.

Commissioner Stefanics asked about the drug card and Mr. Shepherd said he is working on getting an acceptable sole source designation, and he should have something to present by the next meeting.

**IX. Action Items**

**A. Approval of Indigent Hospital and County Health Care Claims**

Mr. Smith said the claims packets are being kept until the actual meeting. He referred to an item in the packet showing a summary of the top claims with the amounts billed and reimbursed.

A discussion of reimbursement rates ensued. Mr. Smith stated they most they can reimburse is 77 percent of the Medicaid rate. He said the providers are aware of the process.

There being no executive session required, Commissioner Holian moved to approve 1379 claims totaling \$645,248.55 as recommended by staff, and Commissioner Stefanics seconded. The motion passed by unanimous [5-0] voice vote.

**ADJOURNMENT**

This meeting adjourned at approximately 9:50 a.m.



ATTEST TO:

*Valerie Espinoza* <sup>1/8</sup> VT  
VALERIE ESPINOZA  
COUNTY CLERK

Approved by:

*Virginia Vigil*  
Virginia Vigil, Chair  
Board of County Commissioners

Respectfully submitted by:

*Debbie Doyle*  
Debbie Doyle, Wordswork