

MINUTES OF THE
SANTA FE COUNTY
INDIGENT HOSPITAL & HEALTH CARE BOARD

February 28, 2012

This meeting of the Santa Fe County Indigent Hospital & Health Care Board was called to order on the above-cited date in the Santa Fe County Legal Conference Room, at the County Courthouse at approximately 9:00 a.m. by County Commission Chair Liz Stefanics.

Roll call indicated the presence of a quorum with the following Board members present:

Members Present:

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

Member(s) Excused:

None

Staff Present:

Katherine Miller, County Manager
Penny Ellis-Green, Deputy County Manager
Rachel Brown, Deputy County Attorney
Steve Shepherd, HHS Director
Greg Smith, Indigent Fund Coordinator
Joseph Gutierrez, Community Services Director
Lisa Garcia, Health Care Assistance Program
Vilma Salinas, Indigent Claims Investigator
Chris Barela, Constituent Liaison

Others Present:

Nancy Adelsheim, Women's Health Services
John Cassidy, La Familia, CEO
Alex Valdez, Christus St Vincent, CEO
Kathy Armijo Etre, Christus St. Vincent
Kate Rowe, HPPC
Dennis Empey, Christus St. Vincent, CFO



COUNTY OF SANTA FE)
STATE OF NEW MEXICO) ss

INDIGENT MINUTES
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I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for
Record On The 28TH Day Of March, 2012 at 02:06:33 PM
And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 1664562
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Deputy _____
Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office
Valerie Espinoza
County Clerk, Santa Fe, N

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III. Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Holian moved to approve the agenda as published and Commissioner Mayfield seconded. The motion passed by unanimous [5-0] voice vote.

IV. Approval of Minutes: January 31, 2011

Mr. Smith noted a few corrections to the minutes that did not appear in the Commission packet. A substantive correction was the dollar amount of claims approved last month at \$1,378,451.33.

Commissioner Holian moved to approve the minutes as corrected. Her motion was seconded by Commissioner Vigil and passed by unanimous [5-0] voice.

V. Matters of Public – Non-action

No matters were presented.

VI. Information Items

A. Comparison of FY-2-011 to FY-2012 Claims

Based on the claims received to date, Mr. Smith said staff predicts continued monthly increases. He noted that the average dollar amount of claims has been increasing. Claims are averaging above \$1,000 each.

Given the upward trend, Chair Stefanics recommended it would be prudent to consider increasing the maximum payment.

Responding to Commissioner Mayfield's concern about informing the public about the indigent fund, Mr. Smith said the County relies on the providers to inform consumers. However, staff attends local health fairs and uses word-of-mouth to inform citizens.

Commissioner Mayfield recommended that staff make presentations at local schools about the fund. Mr. Smith said a school-age individual are Medicaid eligible.

Chair Stefanics said she has directed staff to inform elementary schools of the County's prescription discount card.

Mr. Smith explained that with the hospital's help a claimant will exhaust all avenues for assistance before applying for indigent funding. He said the hospitals offer a great deal of assistance in an effort to get a patient's bill paid and many times the last resort for the provider is a collection agency. After receiving a letter from a collection agency the individual may then contact the County. He emphasized that it is the individual's responsibility to make arrangements for payment.

A discussion ensued about patients receiving letters from collection agencies. Mr. Smith said the provider is mandated to give the patient information on all available programs for payment assistance.

Nancy Adelsheim, Women's Health Services, said most of their clients go through an eligibility appointment where their financial information is reviewed to ascertain appropriate

assistance.

John Cassidy of La Familia said a claimant is reviewed for assistance eligibility when first coming to the clinic. He said they do not use the services of a collection agency.

Alex Valez, CEO CSVRMC, said the process of eligibility begins when the patient arrives and throughout their hospital stay. He said there is onsite Medicaid enrollment and assistance in obtaining Indigent support.

Mr. Smith confirmed that there is a maximum payment of \$35,000 per individual per non-sole community provider. Mr. Smith said the County's billing/payment statement to the provider delineates that once an individual is deemed indigent they will not be turned over to a collection agency. Chair Stefanics recommended obtaining a signed agreement reflecting such from the providers. Deputy Attorney Brown said she would work with Mr. Smith on it. The providers present said they were amenable to such an agreement.

B. Sole Community Provider Hospital Claims FY-2012

Mr. Smith reported that in the State's allocation there is approximately 9 percent left for Los Alamos, 25 percent for Española, and CSVRMC will draw down its allocation. He indicated that the County has allocated the maximum amount to Los Alamos and Española hospitals and every year the hospitals exceed their allocation. The County stacks the claims until new allocations are available thus the funds are drawn down quicker each year.

C. Contracted Expenditures for Fiscal Years 2011 & 2012

No comments.

D. Christus/St. Vincent Regional Medical Center

Mr. Valdez introduced Dennis Empey as a seasoned hospital finance executive with more than 25 years of experience as a CFO of primarily not-for-profit hospitals. Prior to joining Christus St. Vincent, Mr. Empey served as CFO at Antelope Valley Hospital in California.

Mr. Valez referred to HSD's proposal called Centennial Care and said the state Medicaid program has submitted a concept paper to CMS for review in February. Between February and June negotiations will occur to develop the final waiver. HSD is seeking a 1115 waiver in an attempt to collapse all the different Medicaid programs into one managed care program which includes behavioral health. He said the community needs to be very attentive to the behavioral health component. In June an RFP will be issued and in September a decision will be made on the managed care contract. In September 2013 the program will go live. He said one of the issues is the future of the sole community provider program and how the program will perform in the future. If Centennial Care becomes a fully managed care program, then there will not be a fee for service portion on which to base the UPL calculation. Arguably SCP has the potential of being rolled into the program. Of the 200 percent and below poverty segment of the population, Mr. Valdez questioned how many will be enrolled in Medicaid and what the funding source will look like.

Chair Stefanics asked whether CSVRMC has conducted an analysis on how the Medicaid eligibility for single adults will affect the client base under SCP and Mr. Valdez said they have

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not. He said he looked forward to discussing the implications of this proposal with the HPPC.

Staff was directed to send copies of the Medicaid redesign plan to the Commissioners.

Kathy Armijo Etre, Christus St. Vincent reported on the jail/ER diversion program. She indicated she met with Pablo Sedillo III and Mr. Trujillo from the County with a team of representatives from CSVRMC ER, behavioral health and CARE Connection. An agreement was reached on a plan for study in working together to develop reports. She said she was very encouraged by the work group's enthusiasm.

E. HPPC Update

Kate Rowe, HPPC Vice Chair, said the Commission was forwarding a recommendation to this Board to approve additional allocations to Women's Health Services in the amount of \$50,000 and La Familia in the amount of \$25,000.

Ms. Rowe said the HPPC is requesting that the County fund a research assistant position for HPPC. Mr. Shepherd said the division is planning on advertising for a full time non-recurring position. Chair Stefanics suggested a health care foundation may be able to assist in this position.

VII. Matters from Staff

None were presented.

VIII. Matters from the Board

Commissioner Anaya said he greatly appreciates the volunteer services of the HPPC, DWI and Maternal & Child Health Commission members and indicated that those are the appropriate boards to develop community outreach/public access information programs.

Commissioner Anaya asked whether the County's health van could find better locations in which to serve a wider population. He suggested faith-based organizations may have location suggestions.

Commissioner Anaya asked that staff work in a collective fashion on the proposed health care changes with the appropriate stakeholders.

In response to an issue that was raised regarding the SCP accepting County indigent funds as full payment, Ms. Miller said a letter did go out advising the provider regarding acceptance as full and final payment. Chair Stefanics asked that the letter be provided to the Commission at the next Indigent Hospital & Health Care Board meeting.

IX. Action Items

- A. Approval of HPPC recommendation to allocate additional Healthcare Assistance program funds to: Women's Health Services - \$50,000 and La Familia Medical Center - \$25,000**

Ms. Adelstein thanked the County for funding WHS \$63,000 this year and said additional funding is necessary. She noted that WHS does not receive federal funds for the medically

underserved. She thanked the HPPC for their positive recommendation. She said WHS serves women, men and children and provides predominantly primary care.

Mr. Cassidy said La Familia serves over 20,000 individuals a year and he outlined the services provided. He discussed the center's expanded dental services. La Familia is able to accommodate same-day appointments in many cases.

Commissioner Vigil moved to approve the additional allocations to WHS in the amount of \$50,00 and La Familia in the amount of \$25,000. Her motion was seconded by Commissioner Mayfield and passed by unanimous [5-0] voice vote.

B. Approval of Indigent Hospital and County Health Claims

Commissioner Holian moved to approve 986 claims in the amount of \$810,034.52 as presented by staff. Her motion was seconded by Commissioner Mayfield and passed by unanimous [5-0] voice vote.

XIV. Adjournment

Having completed the agenda and with no further business to come before the Board, this meeting adjourned at approximately 10:05 a.m.



Valerie Espinoza
VALERIE ESPINOZA
COUNTY CLERK

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Farrell
Karen Farrell, Wordswork

Approved by:

Liz Stefanics
Liz Stefanics, Commission Chair
Indigent Hospital & Healthcare Board

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