

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

March 27, 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 9:03 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 [9:05 arrival]
Robert Anaya
Danny Mayfield
Virginia Vigil [9:17 arrival]

Member(s) Excused:

None

Staff Present:

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

Others Present:

Kathy Armijo Etre, Christus St. Vincent
Kate Rowe, HPPC
Judy Williams, HPPC
Francis Ong, Housing Authority Member

Those present introduced themselves.

III. Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Mayfield moved to approve the agenda as published and Commissioner Anaya seconded. The motion passed by unanimous [3-0] voice vote. [Commissioners Holian and Vigil were not present for this action.]

IV. Approval of Minutes: February 28, 2012

Commissioner Mayfield moved to approve the minutes as corrected. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Anaya and passed by unanimous [3-0] voice. [Commissioners Holian and Vigil were not present for this action.]

V. Matters of Public – Non-action

No matters were presented.

VI. Information Items

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

Mr. Smith stated there was nothing out of the ordinary to report. Chair Stefanics asked if the claims were on target. Mr. Smith said they were and the funds for certain providers are close to exhausted.

[Commissioner Holian joined the meeting.]

B. Sole Community Provider Hospital Claims FY-2012

There was nothing unusual and there were no questions.

C. Contracted Expenditures for Fiscal Years 2011 & 2012

Mr. Smith explained the process through which recommendations will be made for the next fiscal year's allocations. Requests from providers will be coming in soon and he will bring the recommendations to the Commission. Finance has given instructions that the budget is to remain flat.

Commissioner Anaya asked about the possibility of going back to agreements with the providers. Mr. Smith said those were in fact contracts and on occasion went against the procurement code. They now go through direct pay and there are no purchase orders involved. Deputy County Attorney Rachel Brown agreed that contracts/agreements are not used due to the program structure and regulations. Commissioner Anaya said he would like to see the parameters.

D. Christus/St. Vincent Regional Medical Center

Kathy Armijo Etre, Christus St. Vincent indicated progress is being made in the jail/ER initiative that works with the 24 most frequent users of ER services. They are engaged with key

member of the Public Safety Department to identify gaps and are developing clear protocols.

The community action plan is currently at a standstill. The concept is to look at the bigger issues.

Mary Justice from the CARE Connection thanked Public Safety Director Pablo Sedillo for facilitating bringing jail and medical staff together regarding the HUG (High Utilizer Group). She noted 20 percent of the population use 80 percent of the resources. She spoke of the amount of violence in the backgrounds of some of the high utilizers and gave examples of success stories achieved through the initiative. She said even the broken individuals that come to them still have strength and hope.

[Commissioner Vigil joined the meeting.]

Chair Stefanics asked if this program was done through a contract, and Ms. Miller said only the DWI grant is done by contract.

Citing how powerful the stories are Chair Stefanics suggested getting the word out, perhaps in newsletters.

Ms. Etre stated they are expanding the HUG program so that there is overlap with the jail. She spoke of her plan to bring Keith Hurl, a consultant expert on 990 forms with the goal of clarifying the community benefit reports. She said she would report back on when and where a meeting would be held.

E. HPPC Update

Kate Rowe, HPPC Vice Chair, said the Commission continues to work on the community needs assessment but are hampered by lack of a staff assistant or researcher. HPPC members are assisting the City in their Southwest Area Planning Initiative, gathering health needs information.

Commissioner Vigil noted there is a matter to be taken up at the BCC meeting to change the composition of the HPPC from 11 members to 13. One of the additional members will be from the City.

In response to questions, Mr. Shepherd reported the only vacancy is in District 3. He said there is some diversity but there could be more. Commissioner Anaya said his nominee for District 3 is checking into potential conflicts of interest.

Commissioner Mayfield asked about HPPC costs and whether the City was contributing. Ms. Miller said the only costs are administrative. They could approach the City for help. Chair Stefanics said she saw having a City staff member as more a matter of partnership and coordination.

VII. Matters from Staff

Former State Drug Czar Rachel O'Connor was introduced. She said she is getting to know her way around and looked forward to hearing the Commissioners' ideas. Chair Stefanics stated she hoped Mr. Shepherd would continue to be involved so that the County could make use

of his expertise. The Commissioners expressed their appreciation to Mr. Shepherd and their willingness to work with Ms. O'Connor. Ms. Miller noted Mr. Shepherd's medical experience will be useful in dealing with the health aspects in the jail as well as with the Fire Department and other sectors of Public Safety.

VIII. Matters from the Board

Commissioner Anaya spoke of opportunities for modifications to the health van schedule. Mr. Shepherd said he spoke with the nurse about changes to locales. Chair Stefanics wondered if it was worthwhile sending the van to state agencies since state employees for the most part have health insurance. Commissioner Anaya said it would be an outreach to things people might be neglecting. He said having new access points, such as churches, events, and businesses, enhances the reputation and visibility of the program.

Chair Stefanics suggested having the van present at drop-off points at summer programs so that parents could take advantage of it. Commissioner Holian pointed out the church in Glorieta would be a good congregating place.

Mr. Smith said he believed Angela Thorndyke, the van's nurse, might be scheduled to come to the next Health Board meeting.

Commissioner Anaya mentioned he appreciated the packet format.

IX. Action Items

A. Discussion/Possible Action on Changes to Rules and Regulations Prohibiting Indigent Providers from Sending a Client's Account to Collection

Mr. Smith mentioned there had been a discussion about collection agencies at the previous meeting. The question was what assurance does the County have that indigents whose claims have been paid will not be turned over for additional collection. He referred to the highlighted section in the packet which specifically prohibits a provider from turning over a claimant once the claim is pending, and once the claim is paid that represents full payment.

Commissioner Anaya moved for approval and Commissioner Mayfield seconded.

Commissioner Vigil expressed her concern about whether the County could enforce compliance, and whether this regulation infringes on a business' practices.

Ms. Brown explained that when a provider opts to participate in the indigent program they consent to abide by County rules.

Ms. Miller stated this was put in last year's letter to providers. She asked if there had been any resistance. Mr. Smith noted this has always been in place tacitly but this puts it in a regulatory framework. At last month's meeting La Familia and Women's Health representatives said they do not turn their patients over for collection. He said they have had no negative feedback whatsoever from the hospitals or other providers. He added at St. Vincent Hospital, once a person is coded as being in the indigent program they are spared collection. However, if a person sets up a financial plan and that person does not follow through there could be repercussions.

Commissioner Vigil reiterated her fear commercial transactions were being violated.

Chair Stefanics asked if other counties do this and Mr. Smith said some do and some share Commissioner Vigil's concerns.

The motion passed by majority [4-1] voice vote with Commissioner Vigil casting the nay vote.

B. Approval of Indigent Hospital and County Health Claims

Commissioner Holian moved to approve 941 claims in the amount of \$738,937.01 as presented by staff. Her motion was seconded by Commissioner Anaya 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 9:45 a.m.

Approved by:

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

ATTEST TO:
Valerie Espinoza
VALERIE ESPINOZA
COUNTY CLERK

Respectfully submitted,
Debbie Doyle
Debbie Doyle, Wordswork

COUNTY OF SANTA FE)
STATE OF NEW MEXICO) ss INDIGENT MINUTES
PAGES: 5

I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for
Record On The 25TH Day Of April, 2012 at 01:36:06 PM
And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 1667348
Of The Records Of Santa Fe County

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



SFC CLERK RECORDED 04/25/2012