

MINUTES OF THE

SANTA FE COUNTY

INDIGENT HOSPITAL & HEALTHCARE BOARD

March 30, 2010

This meeting of the Indigent Hospital & Healthcare Board was called to order on the above-cited date in the Legal Conference Room at the County Courthouse at approximately 9:07 a.m. by Chair Harry Montoya.

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

Members Present:

- Harry Montoya, Chair
- Virginia Vigil, Vice Chair
- Mike Anaya
- Kathy Holian
- Liz Stefanics [9:13 arrival]

Member(s) Excused:

None

Staff Present:

- Penny Ellis-Green, Deputy County Manager
- Rachel Brown, Deputy County Attorney
- Joseph Gutierrez, Community Services Director
- Greg Smith, Healthcare Assistance Program Manager
- Priscilla Vigil, Indigent Claims Investigator

Others Present:

- Larry Martinez, HPPC
- Rebecca Frenkel, League of Women Voters
- Judy Williams, HPPC
- Alex Valdez, CEO, CHRISTUS St. Vincent

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Upon motion by Commissioner Holian, and second by Commissioner Vigil the agenda was unanimously [3-0] approved. [Commissioners Anaya and Stefanics were not present for this action.]

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: February 23, 2010

Commissioner Vigil moved approval and Commissioner Holian seconded. The motion passed by unanimous [3-0] voice vote. [Commissioners Stefanics and Anaya were not present for this action; Commissioner Anaya joined the meeting immediately after.]

FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR FY 2010

- A. Comparison of FY 2009 to FY 2010 Claims**
- B. Sole Community Provider Hospital**
- C. Contracted Expenditures for FY 09 and FY 10**

Mr. Smith said there was nothing out of the ordinary to report for the fiscal year at this point. Mr. Smith mentioned that both Los Alamos and Española will both soon be operating in the negative, meaning they are still submitting claims in spite of having gone beyond their allotted SCP amount. This is done to bolster their requests to raise their base as determined by the State. The new fiscal year will begin July 1st.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Changes to HAP (Healthcare Assistance Program) Rules & Regulations**

Mr. Smith reminded the Board of recommendations made at the previous meeting regarding the perception by primary healthcare providers that the County's rules and regulations were onerous. It was easier for a client to go on a sliding scale rather than submitting claims to the County.

[Commissioner Stefanics joined the meeting.]

Referring to information in the packet, Mr. Smith said there are steps that could be taken immediately to alleviate the situation. They include: extending the eligibility period from one year to two years, which would cut down paperwork; rescinding notarization requirement; and allowing providers more time to submit claims. The latter would give 120 days for non-SCP and 240 days for SCP providers. Additionally, a meeting is planned to find more measures the providers would like to see.

Commissioner Stefanics asked about the prospect of aligning more closely with state and federal requirements. Mr. Smith said everyone seems to have a different set of requirements. Commissioner Stefanics pointed out that Medicaid has only one year eligibility. Mr. Martinez said at one point it was six months and it is now one year for sliding scale patients. Medicare generally has multi-year eligibility.

Commissioner Stefanics asked about the suggestion of extending eligibility to immigrants. Mr. Smith said that is one of the topics they plan to discuss with providers, because it will impact everybody. Commissioner Stefanics recommending waiting and implementing all the changes simultaneously. Mr. Smith said he understood the providers were not in a rush and they are hoping to have things in place for the next fiscal year.

Commissioner Anaya asked if this proposal went before the HPPC, and Mr. Smith said there was some discussion and they want time to be able to add more suggestions. He noted the

changes recommended for immediate implementation could be done administratively.

Larry Martinez, HPPC Chair, agreed the HPPC wants to take more time to look at the potential actions. Some require research, such as coverage of immigrants. There was also discussion on asset requirements. They will have recommendations well in advance of July 1st.

Commissioner Vigil agreed all the changes should be made together and not come back with more later. Mr. Smith said HPPC recommendations should be available at the May meeting. Next year's purchase orders will go out in July.

B. UPDATE: Health Policy and Planning Commission

Mr. Martinez introduced HPPC member Judy Williams.

He said the HPPC has completed their recommendations for the community benefit fund allocations. CHRISTUS St. Vincent has adopted the recommendations and letters of agreement were sent out. Originally \$400,000 was available but the committee persuaded the hospital to make it \$450,000. However, requests in the applications totaled over \$900,000. He commended the evaluation subcommittee for their excellent job. At a subsequent meeting he will provide a list of the programs and organizations that were funded.

The HPPC submitted a letter to the BCC recognizing the reorganization of committees. The HPPC feels keeping community stakeholders together to focus on healthcare issues is important, particularly in view of all the changes occurring in the healthcare arena. The HPPC stands ready, willing and able to provide advice and information on healthcare issues, even as a body outside of the County.

Commissioner Holian asked if the HPPC was looking into impacts on the Santa Fe County of the new federal legislation. Mr. Martinez said they are very much interested in that impact, and they are assembling information on that. He said the executive committee will be meeting soon and can provide something at an upcoming meeting. Their last radio show talked about healthcare reform.

Commissioner Vigil asked if ARRA funds are available for healthcare. Mr. Martinez said the first round of ARRA funding went largely to capital funding.

Referring to the minutes of the HPPC March meeting, Commissioner Stefanics said it appeared they endorsed not requiring Social Security cards, which would seem to take care of the immigrant care issue. She stated there will be a forum in May sponsored by UNM and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. She mentioned that the federally qualified health centers got money in the first round of ARRA and that while La Familia did well, others did not. Mr. Martinez said Headstart got some expansion and operations funding and La Cuesta got a new roof and parking lot.

Alex Valdez, CHRISTUS St. Vincent CEO, said extra funding was made available and the hospital was able to hold the budget flat. Additional funding has not been confirmed, which makes budgeting difficult.

Mr. Martinez explained that the general match proportion, federal to state is 73/27, and the stimulus package changed that to 80/20 for poor states. So far that goes to June 30th but there is an effort to extend it another year. The difference amounts to over \$200 million.

C. CHRISTUS St. Vincent Regional Medical Center

Alex Valdez thanked the Commission for making extensions to the application and reconciliation process. The hospital is developing a two-page application and this will be taken to the HPPC.

Regarding healthcare reform, Mr. Valdez said this is the most profound change in domestic policy since the 1930s and is a comprehensive piece of legislation. He will be sending out a series of emails analyzing each section. As an example, he said there could be a loss of up to \$2 million to CHRISTUS St. Vincent if reimbursement rates are cut. The trend seems to be moving more into a public health arena, improving the overall health of the community. He said the hospital stands ready to host forums on educating the community on healthcare reforms and how best to position the community.

Mr. Valdez announced a department for community health is being established and someone will be hired from the community to head that. This demonstrates a stronger emphasis on community health, to wit, prevention, early intervention, chronic disease management, pre-natal care and greater access to primary care. The three integrated legs will be key care, primary care and physician practices.

Touching on the community benefits funding, Mr. Valdez said the letters going out to the recipients indicate that this is supported by taxpayer dollars. Labels will also indicate that the entity is funded in part by the taxpayers of Santa Fe County.

The hospital is working closely with the County on the Sobering Center to transfer contracts, and these are undergoing legal review.

Commissioner Stefanics stated she was contacted by Dr. Kraska concerning the jail contract and the Sobering Center. She asked that someone at County legal speak to him about his issues.

Commissioner Vigil expressed her concerns about there being oversight at the jail on medical issues to ensure Department of Justice compliance is met. Mr. Valdez said he will be working with Corrections Director Romero to make sure there is no gap in service delivery. He said he envisions a broadening of care, particularly with regards to behavioral health needs.

Commissioner Montoya commended Mr. Valdez on establishing a Department of Community Health. He asked if the taxpayer recognition would include the County logo. Mr. Valdez said he didn't know at this point. Commissioner Montoya stated a friend of his just went through surgery and had nothing but praise for the hospital.

D. Matters from the Board

None were presented.

E. Approval of Indigent Hospital and County Healthcare Claims

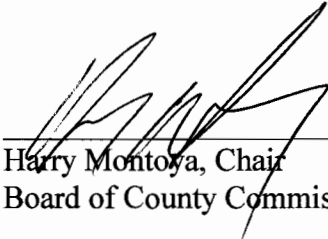
There were no issues that required meeting in executive session.

Commissioner Stefanics moved to approve 660 claims totaling \$660,365.80 as recommended by staff, and Commissioner Vigil seconded. The motion passed by unanimous [5-0] voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT

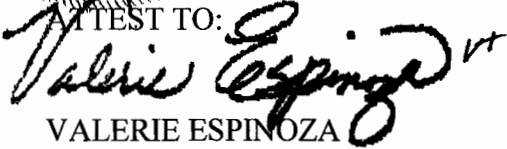
This meeting adjourned at approximately 10:00 a.m.

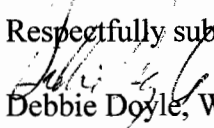
Approved by:



Harry Montoya, Chair
Board of County Commissioners



ATTEST TO:

VALERIE ESPINOZA
COUNTY CLERK

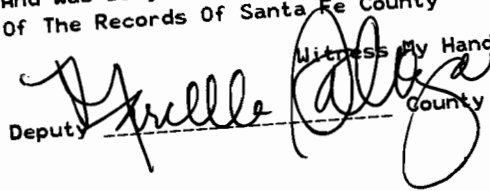
Respectfully submitted by:

Debbie Doyle, Wordswork

INDIGENT MINUTES
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COUNTY OF SANTA FE)
STATE OF NEW MEXICO) ss

I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for
Record On The 14TH Day Of June, 2010 at 10:16:27 AM
And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 1601387
Of The Records Of Santa Fe County



Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office

Deputy _____ Valerie Espinoza
County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM