CCUNTY OF SANTA FE STATE OF NEW MEXICO

INDIGENT MINUTES PAGES: 3

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MINUTES OF THE

SANTA FE COUNTY

INDIGENT HOSPITAL & HEALTH CARE BOARD

April 26, 2011

Commission 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 9:00 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:

Penny Ellis-Green, Deputy County Manager Rachel Brown, Deputy County Attorney Joseph Gutierrez, Community Services Director Steve Shepherd, HHS Director Greg Smith, Health Care Assistance Program Manager Chris Barela, Constituent Liaison

Others Present:

Kathy Armijo Etre, Contractor for Christus St. Vincent Alex Valdez, CEO, Christus St. Vincent Judy Williams, HPPC Chair

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Holian moved to approve the agenda. Her motion was seconded by Commissioner Stefanics and passed by unanimous [4-0] voice vote. [Commissioner Mayfield was not present for this action.]

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: March 29, 2011

Commissioner Holian moved to approve the minutes. Her motion was seconded by Commissioner Stefanics and the minutes were unanimously [4-0] approved. [Commissioner Mayfield was not present for this action and arrived shortly thereafter.]

V. MATTERS OF PUBLIC CONCERN – NON-ACTION ITEMS

None were presented.

VI. MATTERS FROM THE BOARD

Commissioner Stefanics said the Commission needs to discuss the mental health problem at the jail. She said she had some topic ideas regarding the Affordable Care Act and suggested discussing them at another meeting.

Mr. Shepherd said the newly composed HPPC met and he introduced Judy Williams, the newly elected Chair. Ms. Williams said she looked forward to working with the BCC.

Commissioner Stefanics said she is a member of the NACo Health Committee which is very organized and meets monthly telephonically.

VII. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- A. Comparison of FY 2010 to FY 2011 Claims
- **B.** Sole Community Provider Hospital
- C. Contracted Expenditures for FY 10 and FY 11

Mr. Smith said these items are presented monthly for informational purposes. He said at this point he is stacking claims and hopes to present them in June for approval. At this point both UNM Hospital and PMS have stacked claims.

Commissioner Stefanics asked whether there was a maximum payment per individual. Mr. Smith said the cap applies per provider/per individual and is \$35,000; SCP are exempt. He mentioned that staff was now working on a method to write off bad debt or charitable care in an effort to insure individuals with tremendous bills are not hounded by collectors. Commissioner Vigil asked that any bills exceeding \$35,000 be specifically identified for the Board's information.

Mr. Smith said his staff makes every effort to insure the claimant that Santa Fe County will take care of the bill and to try to allay any fears.

Commissioner Anaya said he'd like the County to develop a formal letter advising the claimant that the bill is paid or in the process of being paid.

Commissioner Stefanics suggested that the County receive a release from the provider releasing both the County and patient.

D. Christus St. Vincent Regional Medical Center

Alex Valdez said the hospital is in the budget developing process. The hospital is seriously looking at all expenses with a focus on consolidated in- and out-patient in developmental health and continue to make sure that they are providing services in north central New Mexico.

Kathy Armijo Etre, Contractor for Christus St. Vincent, discussed the integrated CARE Connection as an outpatient branch of the hospital. She discussed a study that identified the most frequent ER users, the personalized treatment for those individuals and their improved health status. This is referred to as Community Coordinated Care and Ms. Etre said the success of the program is reliant on understanding and addressing the needs of the population.

Mr. Valdez commented that the program has reduced the ER visits and is a wise investment.

Commissioner Anaya asked about community assessment referral and/or tracking tools. Ms. Etre said currently there is no common assessment protocol, however, CARE Connection is functioning as a clearinghouse and works closely with Santa Fe Community Guidance Center.

VIII. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:** It was deemed unnecessary.

IX. ACTION ITEMS

A. Approval of Indigent Hospital and County Health Care Claims

Commissioner Holian moved to approve 413 claims totaling \$494,691.53 as recommended by staff, and Commissioner Stefanics seconded.

The motion passed by unanimous [5-0] voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT

This meeting adjourned at approximately 9:35 a.m.

Approved by:

Virginia Vigil, Chair /

Board of County Commissioners

COUNTY CLERK

Respectfully submitted by: Karen Farrell, Wordswork

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