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**SANTA FE COUNTY**  
**HEALTH POLICY & PLANNING COMMISSION**

May 6, 2011

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**MINUTES OF THE**  
**SANTA FE COUNTY**  
**HEALTH POLICY & PLANNING COMMISSION**  
**May 6, 2011**

A meeting of the Santa Fe County Health Policy and Planning Commission was called to order at 9:05 a.m. by Judith Williams, Chair on the above-cited date at the Santa Fe County Health & Human Services Department, 2052 Galisteo Street, Suite B, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Roll call indicated the presence of a quorum for conducting official business as follows:

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Judith Williams, Chair  
Deborah Armstrong, Vice Chair  
James Bond  
George Gamble  
Antoinette Montano  
Kathleen Rowe

**MEMBER(s) ABSENT:**

Anna Vigil, excused

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Marie Garcia, Health and Human Services Department  
Ron Pacheco, Santa Fe County Senior Services Program Director  
Steve Shepherd, Health and Human Services Department Director  
Julia Valdez, Constituent Services Liaison for BCC Commissioner Liz Stefanics

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

David Hartwell  
Lynda Longacre, Project Access  
Commissioner Danny Mayfield  
Commissioner Liz Stefanics  
Jo Ann G. Valdez, Stenographer

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The Agenda was reprioritized (Item VII-A Commissioner Stefanics presentation) was moved up on the agenda after Approval of the Minutes.

**Commissioner Armstrong moved to approve the Agenda as amended.  
Commissioner Gamble seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by voice vote.**

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

*Draft Minutes for April 14, 2011*

**Commissioner Armstrong moved to approve the Minutes of the April 14, 2011 meeting as submitted. Commissioner Bond seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by voice vote.**

## INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

### A. Commissioner Stefanics

Commissioner Stefanics said that the Board of County Commissioners is excited about the restructure of the HPPC. She said this is a great opportunity for new ideas. She said she has discussed some of these ideas with some of the County Commissioners to get their input because they wanted to let the HPPC know what they are interested in; and that they hope that the HPPC will put these ideas on their agenda and work plan, as the Commission moves forward.

Commissioner Stefanics explained what the Sole Community Provider Fund is. She said the HPPC should know what the State law and the County Ordinance says about the Fund; where the money comes from; what the money is used for and how the County uses the money.

Commissioner Stefanics said that one of the reasons the County had to change the HPPC is due to the fact that the last HPPC configuration had a great number of providers sitting on the HPPC who receive funds from the Sole Community Provider Fund; and some of the County Commissioners thought that this could be a conflict of interest and this is also not an objective discussion. She said now the County has an Ethics Ordinance that states that those who may have a possible conflict of interest will not serve on any county board or task force.

Commissioner Stefanics said one of the things that the HPPC should know is that there are two organizations that relate specifically to the County: The New Mexico Association of Counties and the National Association of Counties. They both have their own health councils that focus on healthcare reform that relate to the County.

Commissioner Stefanics distributed three handouts: *NACo: Health Care Reform Implementation Publications: one year later: What to Expect*; *Dona Ana County: Health and Human Services*; and *Ideas for HPPC Direction and Goals*

One year after passage of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), many insurance reform provisions have gone into effect, including ones related to health benefits that counties provided to their employees. Implementation efforts concerning other parts of the law are also moving forward.

Commissioner Stefanics noted that NACo's February webinar was focused on implementing the Affordable Care Act and updates and upcoming issues. During the webinar Kathleen Nolan of the National Governors Association commented that the current political environment clearly affects state decision making and that all states are also facing fiscal constraints that limit the capacity of their planning and implementation efforts.

Commissioner Stefanics said that County Commissioner Virginia Vigil is interested in knowing what funding is available for counties. She said there is funding available for counties through the Prevention and Public Health Fund. There are also community transformation grants available for counties. Commissioner Stefanics said these are things that the HPPC and staff might want to pursue.

Commissioner Stefanics said non-profit hospitals, under the new federal law, are going to have to do a community health needs assessment and the Association of Counties suggested that the County and the HPPC be involved in this some way.

Commissioner Stefanics mentioned that there are other funding opportunities that could be investigated. She spoke about Con Alma, the healthcare foundation for the State, which came out of an agreement several years ago when Blue Cross/Blue Shield was sold. The Con Alma Foundation leverages their local funding with large foundations; and they fund a health council and may be a funding opportunity. Another possible funding opportunity is Kellogg. They are looking at the local level for health improvements and transformation grants.

Commissioner Stefanics said the next item is something the County Commissioners have talked about for a while – they would like to see some kind of accountability and transparency from the hospital, in terms of numbers and findings. She explained that non-profit organizations do not have to comply with the Open Meetings Act, but are required to file Form 990 with the IRS but since CHRISTUS has gotten involved, the reporting mechanism is not clear. She mentioned that the *Santa Fe Reporter* did a couple of articles and one of them had to do with the fact that in 2008, CHRISTUS/St. Vincent Regional Medical Center filed a Form 990 with the IRS, but not for 2009. She said the community would also like to know that the money that is given to the hospital stays in the community, and does not go out of state, or does not go to something that is not serving the needs of the people. Commissioner Stefanics said that the HPPC could think about how they could get involved with the hospital on some projects.

Commissioner Stefanics referred to the County Health Rankings Report noting that the rankings come out every year and they came out about a month ago. It is a national report that talks about counties, and where they rank in various things; for example: the number of kids who quit high school; the number of teen pregnancies; the number of immunizations, etc. Santa Fe County is doing well in some areas and not so well in other areas. Commissioner Stefanics suggested that the HPPC review this, look at some of the low areas to see if there is something the HPPC could do around those areas.

Commissioner Gamble asked where they could get this data.

Mr. Shepherd said it is on the internet and offered to send a link to the Commissioners.

Commissioner Stefanics said that the Board of County Commissioners tours the Santa Fe Detention Center (the jail) and the Youth/Juvenile Detention Center for oversight purposes. The

County Commissioners look at a variety of things, i.e., they check on the living conditions, meals, the kitchen, the complaints from inmates, suicide watch, booking procedures, etc. It was recently brought to their attention that in the month of January, there were more mental health incarcerations; and the administrator of the Corrections Department questioned whether or not this had to do with the changes with the way Optum Health is working with their vendors. This is something that has a direct impact on the County and this is something that HPPC may want to look into. Optum Health is the umbrella entity that has the entire State contract for all the health facilities; and they are supposed to subcontract with local providers to make sure that it is a total complete network.

Commissioner Stefanics said in fairness to Optum Health and the State Department of Health, there is never enough mental health services in the State and some areas have no mental health services or treatment. She said the HPPC may want to investigate whether or not there has been a change in mental health care services in the County.

Commissioner Stefanics said there is also Project Access, which is funded mainly through the hospital. The idea behind Project Access is to ensure that people have access to healthcare or can get enrolled in some kind of health program. She said they would like to see more residents receive this service. She mentioned that undocumented immigrants are going to be a major issue because under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), as of 2014, they are not going to be allowed to go through the health insurance exchange and often are not allowed to go through Medicaid. This also has an impact on the Sole Community Provider Fund. The County Commissioners want to make sure that the County takes care of public health concerns so that it does not become detrimental to the entire community.

Commissioner Stefanics noted that there are some changes coming down the pike from PPACA for federally qualified health centers (La Familia Medical Center, El Centro, Women's Health Services and the Pecos Valley Medical Center). This is another area that the HPPC may want to look at.

Of particular concern for states is the sustainability of their Medicaid programs, which continue to experience increasing enrollment and costs. In 2014, when the PPACA expands Medicaid to include all eligible individuals who have incomes up to 133% of the federal poverty level, the program will most likely look different than it currently does. With the need to rein in rising Medicaid costs and enhanced federal aid ending in June, states are currently determining where to make cuts that will not damage the program in the long term. They are finding this task challenging because of the health reform law's maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements, which mandate that states maintain Medicaid eligibility levels until the expansion of the program in 2014, and for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), the MOE provision extends to 2019. NACo opposes Medicaid cuts, particularly proposals by some states to transform the program into a block grant, and if states reduce Medicaid eligibility rules, this will most likely result in a shifting of the costs of services to counties. Commissioner Stefanics said the HPPC may want to study the difference of the MOE's and block grants. She said the Board of County Commissioners is open to suggestions or recommendations from the HPPC.

Commissioner Stefanics referred to the handout from the Dona Ana County Health and Human Services. She suggested that the HPPC look at what other counties are doing. She noted that the "Health and Human Services Alliance" of Dona Ana County was created and serves as the primary advisory board to the Human Services Department to further improve the health status of Dona Ana County residents. The Alliance improves coordination and collaboration, nurtures public understanding, strengthens accountability, promotes informed policy-making, and creates opportunity for effective community output. The Alliance is a 25-member volunteer board. The membership reflects a cross section of the community that is consistently represented at meetings and actively involved in decision-making. The membership includes individuals with a wide range of strengths, abilities, experiences, and resources found within the community.

Commissioner Stefanics asked Commissioner Danny Mayfield if he had anything more to add.

Commissioner Mayfield suggested that the HPPC come up with ideas collectively and the Board of County Commissioners will consider the ideas. He acknowledged the members of the HPPC for their group of expertise and thanked them for serving on the HPPC.

Commissioner Stefanics said the County will be taking over the operations of the senior centers throughout the County that the City currently operates, effective July 1<sup>st</sup>, and this gives the County freedom in terms of programming. She said the HPPC could think of health initiatives for the senior citizens.

Commissioner Mayfield noted that there is a City/County Food Policy Advisory Council and they have been making presentations to the senior citizens at the various senior centers. He thinks that the senior citizens would appreciate the involvement of the HPPC. He mentioned that the County also has a Health Van that provides services throughout the community.

Commissioner Stefanics said she would like to see the Health Van do more. She noted that they are now opened on weekends. She said it seems to her that there may be opportunities to do more, specifically for those who do not have health care or a doctor to go to.

Mr. Shepherd said the services of the Health Van could be looked at again.

Mr. Bond thanked Commissioner Stefanics for her presentation noting that it was very helpful for the new Commissioners. He asked if the Board of County Commissioners have looked at this list and are there items they would prefer that the HPPC look at.

In response, Commissioner Stefanics said she could take some of this back and get some prioritization for the HPPC.

Commissioner Gamble said with the recent publicity regarding Medicaid, and the redesign of Medicaid, it seems to him that this could potentially be a significant issue. He asked if the HPPC should be involved prior to any major proposal being done.

Mr. Shepherd said possibly they could invite someone to talk to the HPPC about this. He offered to check on this.

Commissioner Stefanics said there are a couple of people that the HPPC could put on as be part of the agenda, or invite to a meeting: One is Tasha Young, who is the Healthcare Lobbyist for the NM Association of Counties and the other is Julia Weinberg, the Managing Director for the State.

Commissioner Stefanics mentioned that another thing that came up when the new members of the HPPC were appointed was the fact that some County Commissioners did not feel that 2-at large members were enough and that there was enough diversity of the community. Therefore, there is an ongoing effort to expand the HPPC to represent a diverse population, for example seniors, Hispanics, etc.

Commissioner Mayfield said the HPPC has to keep in mind that any decision that the HPPC and Board of County Commissioners make can have an impact on many people. He said one thing he has heard so much from the public is that people feel that they provide their input but their ideas are not being considered or proposed. He encouraged the HPPC to include the public's input in their discussions.

Commissioner Mayfield asked Mr. Shepherd if the schools and illegal drugs are included in the HPPC discussions.

Mr. Shepherd said no, not part of the HPPC.

#### **MATTERS FROM PUBLIC CONCERN**

There were none.

#### **MATTERS FROM THE COMMISSION**

##### **A. Review Calendar Dates for Future Meetings**

[Copies of the Calendar were distributed and reviewed.]

#### **OTHER MATTERS FROM THE COMMISSION**

None presented.

#### **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS (Continued)**

##### **A. Healthcare Reform Act**

Commissioner Armstrong said that she did a little research after the last meeting and found that this Commission needs to be more aware of the opportunities for grants for prevention and public health. She noted that there are also community transformation grants available.

Commissioner Armstrong said as far as Medicaid, the Request for Proposal is out for a complete redesign for Medicaid. She noted that there are two finalists but she is not familiar with either organization, as both finalists are not local.

With regard to the development of the health insurance exchanges (that will serve as eligibility portals in 2014 for individuals to find Medicaid or private plan coverage), Commissioner Armstrong said it is likely that there will be legislation at the next Legislative Session in September or possibly a health insurance exchange could be established through executive order from the governor. However, there are all kinds of challenges going on currently, particularly with the government doing the assessments. There are unanswered questions about how Medicaid coverage will be maintained for individuals with incomes that fluctuate; and whether wrap-around services traditionally provided through Medicaid will be available to individuals who qualify for private plan coverage.

Commissioner Armstrong reported that the Legislative Council Service has not met yet to appoint the legislative members, or to finalize the budget. She noted that the Legislative Council Services got a small grant to help with technical assistance.

Commissioner Armstrong mentioned that she sits on the Senate Joint Memorial 1 Health Reform Working Group and some of the items that they will focus on include positioning the State for other public health grant opportunities; and studying health care reform and advising the Legislative Health and Human Services Committee. She said a new memorial was done to extend the Committee through 2013.

## **B. Staff Presentation**

Mr. Pacheco distributed and reviewed copies of the PowerPoint presentation on the **Community Services Department Health and Human Services Division**. (Please see Exhibit "A" for the details.)

Mr. Shepherd noted that there is an error on page 3 of the presentation. There are approximately **230** employees in the Community Services Department and currently 22 employees within the Health and Human Services Division.

Commissioner Rowe asked if the HPPC has access to the UNM Library or other libraries to do some research on health topics. Mr. Shepherd offered to check on this.

Commissioner Armstrong requested that the HPPC get copies of the County Health Rankings report. Mr. Shepherd offered to have this for the next meeting.

## ACTION ITEMS

### A. Proposed Changes to Enabling Resolution

[A handout on the current structure of the HPPC and a proposed structure of the HPPC were distributed and reviewed.]

Mr. Shepherd noted that the current structure includes seven members and the proposed structure includes 11 members. He asked the Commissioners what they think of the two different structures before he takes it to the Board of County Commissioners.

Commissioner Armstrong noted that she will be moving sometime this summer; therefore her position on the Commission will be vacant.

After discussion, the following motion was made:

**Commissioner Armstrong moved that the HPPC move forward with the proposed structure. Commissioner Gamble seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by voice vote.**

Chair Williams asked the Commissioners if they want to discuss possible priorities that they can focus on.

Commissioner Gamble said it seems to him that it is premature for the Commission to start prioritizing things because the Commission is still learning more about the needs in the community and there are so many issues involved. He asked Mr. Shepherd to create a list of priorities he thinks that the HPPC should focus on. Mr. Shepherd agreed and said he would like the Board of County Commissioners' and the HPPC's assistance in ranking the priorities.

Commissioner Armstrong said there are some major gaps in information. She thinks the HPPC needs to hear from the Local Behavioral Health Collaborative and the Public Health Department. She also suggested that the HPPC hear from federally-funded organizations, such as La Familia Medical Center, to see what their concerns are.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. The next HPPC Regular Meeting is scheduled for June 3, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. at the Health and Human Services Conference Room.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Having completed the agenda and with no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

**Approved by:**

  
**Judith Williams, Chairperson**

Respectively submitted by:

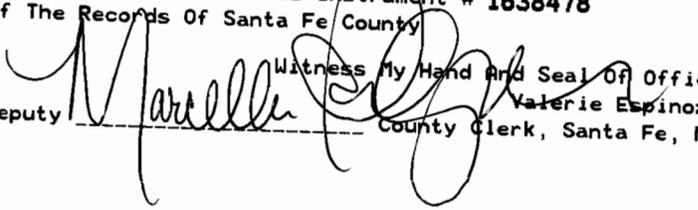
**Jo Ann G. Valdez, Stenographer**



COUNTY OF SANTA FE )  
STATE OF NEW MEXICO ) ss

HEALTH POLICY & PLAN  
PAGES: 10

I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for  
Record On The 27TH Day Of June, 2011 at 10:20:36 AM  
And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 1638478  
Of The Records Of Santa Fe County

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