

REC'D - CLERK - RECORDED - 6/26/2012

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

June 26, 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 9:05 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 [9:15 arrival]
Danny Mayfield [telephonically]
Virginia Vigil

Member(s) Excused:

None

Staff Present:

Katherine Miller, County Manager
Steve Ross, County Attorney
Rachel Brown, Deputy County Attorney
Rachel O'Connor, HHS Director
Pablo Sedillo III, Public Safety Director
Steve Shepherd, Public Safety Finance Manager
Greg Smith, Indigent Fund Coordinator
Lisa Garcia, Health Care Assistance Program
Teresa Martinez, Finance Director
Juan Rios, Constituent Liaison
Chris Barela, Constituent Liaison

Others Present:

Kathy Armijo Etre, Christus St. Vincent
Sharon Argenbright, Christus St. Vincent Nurse
Diane Spencer, Christus St. Vincent Nurse

III. Introductions

Those present introduced themselves.

IV. Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Vigil moved to approve the agenda as published and Commissioner Holian seconded. The motion passed by unanimous [4-0] voice vote. [Commissioner Anaya was not present for this action.]

V. Approval of Minutes: May 29, 2012

Commissioner Holian moved to approve the minutes as submitted. Her motion was seconded by Commissioner Vigil and passed by unanimous [4-0] voice. [Commissioner Anaya was not present for this action.]

VI. Matters of Public Concern – Non-action

Sharon Argenbright, Christus St. Vincent nurse with 20 years experience, said the hospital administration wants to cut staffing. The industry-preferred ratio for nurses to patients is one to four; the hospital has proposed one to six. Ms. Argenbright said this is unacceptable for our community and the nursing staff. She noted that good outcomes go down when nurses have additional patients. Data has evidenced pharmaceutical issues and physical therapy issues when the shifts are short-staffed. Departmental short-staffing creates additional burdens on nursing staff. She said that the union uses a web site where the nurses to report on staffing issues.

Ms. Argenbright said the turnover rate for nurses has increased which is problematic. She reported that the contracts have been signed and mentioned that Christus wants to hold itself at the 50 percentile in staffing. At the beginning of negotiations there was 75 percent staff which Ms. Argenbright said was "great" staffing but that has been derogated for infrastructure.

Diane Spencer, Christus St. Vincent nurse, said from the staff nurse perspective there are many problems with the higher nurse to patient. The lower the ratio the less time the nurse has for critical thinking, looking at patients and intervening early.

Ms. Argenbright said they have reported their issues to the staffing council.

Commissioner Mayfield asked whether the SCP agreements include any provisions regarding patient to staff ratio. Mr. Smith responded in the negative and said reimbursement is made based on the State-determined Medicaid reimbursable rate.

The Board thanked the nurses for their presentation.

VII. Information Items

A. Comparison of FY-2011 to FY-2012 Claims

Mr. Smith stated that this is the last month for the FY12 year.

B. Sole Community Provider Hospital Claims FY-2012

Mr. Smith noted that CSVVMC will zero out this year.

C. Contracted Expenditures for Fiscal Years 2011 & 2012

Mr. Smith stated there was nothing unusual to report.

D. Christus/St. Vincent Regional Medical Center

Kathy Armijo Etre, Christus St. Vincent, introduced the Board to two young health explorer program participants. She said these two young women were shadowing her today.

Ms. Armijo Etre said she had no comment regarding the nurses' presentation.

Ms. Armijo Etre said significant progress is being made with the Corrections Department. Hospital department heads are participating in the meetings and she said the collaboration and cooperation between Corrections and the hospital have been tremendous.

Ms. Armijo Etre said the hospital is working on the required comprehensive community needs assessment. A collaborative process has been developed with HPPC. Data in the form of health indicators are being collected and focus groups are coming together. There are three different pieces: community profile data, setting priorities and developing a strategic plan.

Commissioner Vigil asked that the Board be kept informed about the focus groups and when the meetings are being held. She advised that *A Call to Action* may be a useful document.

Ms. Armijo Etre said the focus groups may be better defined as existing community groups and offered to forward any information she could.

Chair Stefanics said the taxpayers have an investment in the hospital and would welcome the opportunity to attend a focus group or listening session.

E. HPPC Update

Ms. O'Connor read HPPC chair Judy Williams' report that indicated they are working with the CSVRMC on the community needs assessment in an effort to avoid any duplication of efforts. Currently, HPPC members are meeting weekly with hospital staff to work on criteria and data collection.

F. Discussion of Hospital Mill Levy [Exhibit 1]

Ms. Miller stated that the Hospital Mill Levy requires a separate ballot. Socorro County is mailing the ballots which supports that the question doesn't have to be in the general election. She repeated that this levy requires a separate ballot.

Finance Director Teresa Martinez cited NMSA 27-5-0 which authorizes the County Commission to hold a hospital levy. If the levy is imposed, the amount imposed is certified annually by the Indigent Board based upon the Indigent Board's determination of funds needed to support indigent claims. If imposed, consistency of the claim funding level is needed to ensure that large fluctuations in property taxes are not created from year to year. The one mill tax would generate approximately \$6.5 million.

Ms. Martinez provided examples of the mill, showing the mill equal \$1 for each \$1,000 of taxable property value.

Ms. Miller said several counties have imposed the levy and several more are going out for it.

Ms. Martinez said the statute is very broad and specifies it is “limited to an amount sufficient to provide funds budgeted and certified to pay claims pursuant to the Indigent Hospital County Health Care Act.” And that act says it is responsible for ambulance transportation, hospital care or the provision of health care to indigent patients in the County and that can be done through a system of payments distributed to ambulance providers, hospitals or health care providers.

In response to Commissioner Vigil, Ms. Martinez said one mill was the maximum and lesser amounts could be applied.

Commissioner Vigil said this mill levy cannot happen without the hospital’s full engagement and promotion of the election.

Commissioner Anaya requested the last five years of data for the second half of the third 1/8, and for that same five-year period a simple spreadsheet that breaks out the sole community contributions – recurring and non-recurring revenues.

Ms. Miller said it would be difficult to get an accurate picture because the County’s arrangement with the hospital changed mid-way through the five-year period, i.e., with the inclusion of the Sobering Center, the jail, ambulance service.

Commissioner Anaya said he is reluctant to go the mill given that the County reduced its contributions to SCP; however, the requested data may be helpful.

Commissioner Mayfield asked what the mill money would be used for and Ms. Miller said to pay indigent claims. She referred the Commissioner to the current claims which have exceeded funding and noted the sole community provider funding Christus has requested is greater than what the County has had available. Excess funds from the mill levy would stay in the indigent fund.

Mr. Ross said he understood from the Clerk’s Office a mail-out ballot would cost approximately \$30,000. Ms. Miller said while the County has held special elections she was unaware of any mail-out ballots.

Commissioner Mayfield said he would prefer a separate ballot in the November election rather than a \$30,000 mail-out ballot. Commissioner Anaya shared his preference to save money.

Before the BCC takes any definitive action, Commissioner Vigil recommended that the HPPC review this issue and Christus’ CEO should weigh in on it.

Mr. Ross confirmed the following facts for Chair Stefanics: that the funds from the mill levy could be used for more than one hospital and the existing County indigent funds could be used to support community facilities.

Ms. Miller pointed out that the mill levy can be used for any provider of indigent care. She cautioned the Board that there is a voter tolerance regarding tax questions.

VIII. Director's Report

Ms. O'Connor reported that the Health Division was hiring an HPPC position, expansion nurse and Indigent case specialist. The Maternal and Child Health Council met last week and there are vacancies in districts 1, 2, and 5.

Molina Healthcare has expressed a desire to be a provider and staff is looking at different possible funding options.

IX. Matters from the Board

Commissioner Holian said concern has been raised about the helicopter patterns at the hospital. Ms. Armijo Etre offered to report back on the issue.

X. Approval of Indigent Hospital and County Health Claims

Commissioner Holian moved to approve 452 claims in the amount of \$867,751.98 as presented by staff. Her motion was seconded by Commissioner Vigil and passed by unanimous [5-0] voice vote.

Commissioner Anaya said in the past staff provided a summary of the claims and he asked that they continue with the past practice.

XI. Executive Session

There was no need for executive session.

XIV. Adjournment

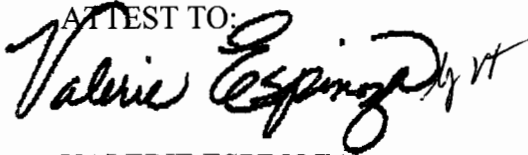
Having completed the agenda and with no further business to come before the Board, this meeting adjourned at approximately 10:05 a.m.

Approved by:




Liz Stefanić, Commission Chair
Indigent Hospital & Healthcare Board

ATTEST TO:



VALERIE ESPINOZA
COUNTY CLERK

Respectfully submitted,


Karen Farrell, Wordswork



COUNTY OF SANTA FE)
STATE OF NEW MEXICO) ss

INDIGENT MINUTES
PAGES: 8

I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for
Record On The 2ND Day Of August, 2012 at 10:16:31 AM
And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # **1677019**
Of The Records Of Santa Fe County

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

Special Indigent Hospital Levy

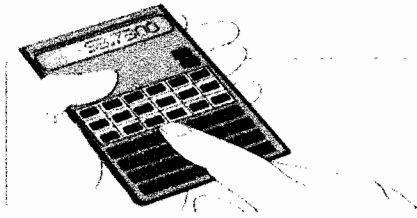
NMSA 27-5-9 authorizes the Board of County Commissioners to impose a special indigent hospital levy for the purpose of the Indigent Hospital and County Health Care Act.

- The BCC could impose a levy against the net taxable value of the property in the county.
- The mill levy would require one-time voter approval. The election must be conducted in the same manner as for general elections.
- The amount imposed is certified annually by the Indigent Board based upon the Indigent Board's determination of funds needed to support indigent claims.
- If imposed, consistency of the claims funding level is needed to ensure that large fluctuations in property taxes are not created from year to year.
- One mill would generate approximately \$6.5 million.
- Indigent claims (excluding SCP) totaled:
 - 2009 Indigent claims \$1.420 million,
 - 2010 Indigent claims \$1.287 million,
 - 2011 Indigent claims \$1.574 million, and
 - 2012 Indigent claims \$1.695 million.

Special Indigent Hospital Levy

- In New Mexico, a property's taxable value is one-third (1/3) of its assessed value.
- The mill rate is applied to the taxable value.
- 1 mill equals \$1.00 for each \$1,000 of taxable property value.

Example: A home with an assessed value of \$150,000 equates to a taxable value of \$50,000. A 1 mill levy on this property would compute to \$50.00 per year.



Additional Examples of cost to taxpayer:

- A home with an assessed value of \$200,000 equates to a taxable value of \$66,666. A 1 mill rate would equate to \$67 per year.
- A home with an assessed value of \$350,000 equates to a taxable value of \$116,666. A 1.00 mill rate would equate to \$117 per year.
- A home with an assessed value of \$500,000 equates to a taxable value of \$166,666. A 1.00 mill rate would equate to \$167 per year.