

MINUTES OF THE
SANTA FE COUNTY
INDIGENT HOSPITAL & HEALTHCARE BOARD

July 27, 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 9:00 a.m. by Vice Chair Virginia Vigil.

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

Members Present:

Virginia Vigil, Vice Chair
Liz Stefanics
Mike Anaya
Harry Montoya, Chair [late arrival]

Member(s) Excused:

Kathy Holian

Staff Present:

Penny Ellis-Green, Interim County Manager
Rachel Brown, Deputy County Attorney
Joseph Gutierrez, Community Services Director
Greg Smith, Healthcare Assistance Program Manager
Priscilla Vigil, Indigent Claims Investigator
Steve Shepherd, Health & Human Services Division Director

Others Present:

Larry Martinez, HPPC
Rebecca Frenkel, League of Women Voters
Alex Valdez, CEO CHRISTUS St. Vincent
Kathy Erte, Contractor for CHRISTUS St. Vincent

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Upon motion by Commissioner Stefanics and second by Commissioner Anaya the agenda was unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: May 25, 2010

Staff noted Kathy Erte's name was misspelled.

Upon motion by Commissioner Stefanics and second by Commissioner Anaya the minutes were approved as corrected.

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. He pointed out that these are the end of the year reports and next month's will start FY11.

Commissioner Stefanics asked about the billings. Mr. Smith said between January and June the primary care providers have been submitting invoices. He confirmed that the fund was not overdrawn.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Approval of new HPA Rules & Regulations

Mr. Smith reminded the Board that at its May meeting they approved the rule changes developed to assist the program provider by simplifying the application. He said he was requesting the Board's approval so the new regulations can be provided to the providers with their contracts.

Commissioner Stefanics moved to approve the rules and regulations as presented. Commissioner Holian seconded.

In response to Commissioner Anaya's request, Mr. Smith reviewed the six changes as follows:

1. Rescind the social security number requirement
2. Change the definition of liquid assets limitations
3. Extend applicant eligibility period
4. Rescind the notarization process
5. Extend the claim submission period to 240 days from 120 days for providers
6. Modify and condense the application form

Commissioner Anaya said he voted against eliminating the social security number and he asked staff to expand on the idea of allowing anybody to receive service. Mr. Smith said currently the healthcare providers do not ask individuals seeking services for a social security number. He said the change will help the providers to submit claims for all individuals.

Commissioner Anaya said he was against eliminating the requirement to have a social security number to receive reimbursement through the County's indigent program.

Commissioner Stefanics said this point was voted on at the May meeting where there were three Commissioners present. The rule change passed by a majority, two to one, vote with Commissioner Anaya voting against. She said the HPPC supported the recommendation as did staff. There was discussion about funding and concern that legal residents would be denied services because the funds were depleted. Staff was directed to review the financial impact on the rule changes at midyear.

Mr. Smith noted that the new rules establish that the Board of County Commissioners in its capacity as the County Indigent Hospital Health Care Board reserves the right to change these rules and regulations at any time.

SFC CLERK RECORDED 7/29/2010

Mr. Smith anticipated it would take a few months to determine if there is an impact on the fund. He said the rules were changed in May and providers were advised of the changes.

Larry Martinez, HPPC Chairman, confirmed that the HPPC spent a great deal of time studying and reviewing potential ways to streamline the process. He said most providers in the community do not ask for social security numbers: "Healthcare has no political boundaries." HPPC felt eliminating the social security number requirement would be a great stride forward for the community. He said the claimant is required to meet all the requirements.

Mr. Martinez mentioned Project Ann, a CHRISTUS voucher program, that provides for children's dental and vision services. The vast majority served by that program are non-citizens. Citizen children requiring healthcare are enrolled in Medicaid. When HSD has resources, citizens can be enrolled in the state coverage insurance program or, if eligible, Medicaid. Mr. Martinez said citizens were assured assistance. The County's indigent program is limited and seen as the payer of last resort.

Commissioner Anaya said the program's funding source is through an electorate approved GRT increase; the voters did not endorse funding people without social security numbers. He said the citizens did not vote to provide medical attention to non-citizens.

Commissioner Vigil said her concern was that the action taken to approve the rules was made by a majority of a minority with only two Commissioners voting for the change. Stating the change was radical in terms of administering the fund she suggested rehearing the issue.

Commissioner Stefanics said following the Board's action at its May meeting staff notified the clinics of the changes to be effective July 1st. Mr. Smith verified that was accurate.

Commissioner Stefanics said at the May meeting the Board approved the policy changes recommended by staff and the HPPC.

Assistant County Attorney Brown clarified that the rules are before the Board for approval today as opposed to the policy that was previously approved.

Commissioner Vigil said the most efficient manner to reconsider the issue would be not to approve them today and to rehear them all at a future meeting. Ms. Brown said the Board could table the item.

The motion to approve the rules and regulations failed by majority [1-3] voice vote with Commissioner Stefanics casting the sole yea vote.

Commissioner Vigil directed staff to place this item on the next Indigent Hospital & Health Care Board meeting agenda with a focus on the elimination of the social security number. Commissioner Stefanics asked that all the providers be invited to speak on this issue.

Commissioner Montoya commented that in order to reconsider the motion someone from the original majority will need to bring it back on the floor. Commissioner Stefanics said she would make that motion.

B. Approval of Contract/Purchase Orders for HAP Providers FY11

Mr. Smith said the dollar amount remains flat for each of the providers. The substance/alcohol treatment providers will receive the same amounts event though they did not draw down those funds. He said Ayundantes has continued to reduce their clientele over the years but he wanted to provide them the opportunity to serve the community. Adjustments to the contracts can be made at mid-year.

Responding to Commissioner Montoya, Mr. Smith said the majority of those individuals receiving treatment for substance/alcohol abuse use the Santa Fe Recovery Center. Hoy sporadically bills the County. The Life Link provides the majority of outpatient services. He did not think there was a decrease in demand for the services but there was clearly a decrease in claims.

Mr. Martinez said Ayundantes has announced they will terminate services in Rio Arriba County. An RFP was issued for those services and PMS was awarded the community mental health center contract in Española/Rio Arriba County. PMS is now operating the Valley Community Health Center. Ayundantes has dissolved as a corporation. He said PMS serviced a lot of northern Santa Fe County residents at the Valley Community Health Center.

Commissioner Montoya moved to approve. Commissioner Stefanics seconded and the motion passed by unanimous [4-0] voice vote.

Returning to the issue of the HAP rule and regulations, Commissioner Stefanics requested a memo from the legal department outlining the specific action taken by the Board in May, how it relates to today's action and a possible reconsideration. She said today's action places the providers in limbo.

C. UPDATE: Health Policy and Planning Commission

Mr. Martinez reported on the following items:

- Dentist Patricio Larragoite resigned from the HPPC
- The HPPC will be presenting an analysis of federal healthcare reform and its impact on Santa Fe County
- As a result of the state's budget problems state level healthcare (primary health care and prevention/early intervention) were cut the hardest and will impact the County's healthcare infrastructure
- The loss of the Medicaid match and the enhanced match is of great concern to providers

D. CHRISTUS St. Vincent Regional Medical Center

Alex Valdez, CSVRMC CEO, introduced Kathy Erte who is on contract with the hospital to head the community health department. He thanked the County for working with the medical center to bring about the transition of the CARE Connection and the Sobering Center. The medical center donated \$100,000 to Las Cumbres' infant behavioral health program.

Mr. Valdez said the medical center is building its FY11 budget on a \$15 million

reduction in revenue versus FY10, of which \$7.5 million is the sole community provider funding and another \$7.5 million from Medicaid.

Ms. Erte said the CARE Connection officially transitioned on June 19th and the facility reopened on June 23rd. She discussed the activities that occurred during the two-week closure that she said served to reenergize staff.

Ms Erte provided an overview of community health department [*Exhibit 1*] highlighting the philosophy, priorities, needs and service delivery, current status, community level action planning and an organization chart.

Commissioner Montoya said he received an anonymous letter about the psychiatric unit at the hospital and asked whether the hospital received it. Mr. Valdez requested that he forward the letter to him and offered that the unit director recently resigned and a new director will be hired. Ms. Erte said she and her staff are studying what type of psychiatric unit is appropriate for this community plus other items.

E. Matters from the Board

None were presented.

F. Approval of Indigent Hospital and County Healthcare Claims

There were no issues that required meeting in executive session.

Commissioner Stefanics moved to approve 1,620 claims totaling \$1,571,643.45 as recommended by staff, and Commissioner Montoya seconded. The motion passed by unanimous [4-0] voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT

This meeting adjourned at approximately 10:05 a.m.



ATTEST

Valerie Espinoza
VALERIE ESPINOZA
COUNTY CLERK

Respectfully submitted by:

Karen Farrell
Karen Farrell, Wordswork



Approved by:

Virginia Vigil
Virginia Vigil, Vice Chair
Board of County Commissioners

COUNTY OF SANTA FE)
STATE OF NEW MEXICO) ss

INDIGENT MINUTES
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I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for
Record On The 29TH Day Of December, 2010 at 11:30:42 AM
And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 1621523
Of The Records Of Santa Fe County

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

SFC CLERK RECORDED/29/2010