

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

August 28, 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 Administration Building at approximately 9:05 a.m. by County Commission Vice Chair Kathy Holian.

Roll call indicated the presence of a quorum with the following Board members present:

Members Present:

Liz Stefanics, Chair [late arrival]
Kathy Holian, Vice Chair
Robert Anaya
Danny Mayfield
Virginia Vigil

Member(s) Excused:

None

Staff Present:

Katherine Miller, County Manager
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
Vilma Salinas, Health Care Assistance Program
Chris Varela, Constitute Liaison

Others Present:

Kathy Armijo Etre, Christus St. Vincent
Alex Valdez, Christus St. Vincent
Judy Williams, HPPC
Bertha Blanchard, HPPC
Shirlee Davidson, HPPC

III. Introductions

Those present introduced themselves.

IV. Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Mayfield moved to approve the agenda as published and Commissioner Anaya seconded. The motion passed by unanimous [4-0] voice vote.

V. Approval of Minutes: July 31, 2012

Commissioner Mayfield moved to approve the minutes as submitted. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Anaya and passed by unanimous [4-0] voice vote.

VI. Matters of Public Concern – Non-action

None were presented.

VII. Information Items

A. Comparison of FY-2012 to FY-2013 Claims

Mr. Smith stated at this point there is nothing out of the ordinary to report.

B. Sole Community Provider Hospital Claims FY-2013

Mr. Smith said this report reflects the FY13 state allocation for Christus, Española, and Los Alamos hospitals as approved by the state Human Services Department.

C. Contracted Expenditures for Fiscal Years 2012 & 2013

Mr. Smith said the report presents expenditures to date for FY13 and the balance of the allocation approved last month. He said there was nothing out of the ordinary to report.

D. Christus/St. Vincent Regional Medical Center

Alex Valdez, CEO, Christus St. Vincent, reported that hospital expects to learn from HSD the amount which they are eligible for in supplemental funding in September. Last year the hospital was eligible for \$16 million to \$18 million and he expected it would be within that range this year. The hospital will ask the County for as much match as possible to draw down the federal dollars: last year Santa Fe County assisted with \$160,000.

Mr. Valdez highlighted select services that the hospital provides to the community. The in-patient psych facility has a bed capacity of nine and the average daily census is approximately six patients with an average three-day stay. In the past they had bed capacity for 11 but converted two to their psychiatric assessment center (PAC unit) serving crisis-stabilization and out-patient services. He stated it is an infrequent occurrence to transfer someone from in-patient psych to the Las Vegas Medical Center and if that does occur it is likely based on a court order.

The Sobering Center has 15 beds and the average daily census is 12 with an average stay

of 72+ hours. In FY12 the intake was 4,790 individuals; of that 3,289 were from Santa Fe County. He noted that the center is significant from a regional perspective with 700 from Rio Arriba, 233 from San Miguel County, 201 from Sandoval County and 191 from Bernalillo.

Mr. Valdez emphasized that the County's supplemental match will help Christus to continue the service to the Santa Fe County residents. The Sobering Center is operating on a deficit of \$1.4 million a year.

The hospital dipped into their own reserves to meet budgetary obligations. Mr. Valdez said the hospital was very tight on budget this fiscal year. The average daily census for August was down daily by 10 patients, significantly impacting the hospital's revenue. The supplement will assist the hospital in maintaining its budget.

Chair Stefanics asked about the Santa Fe Recovery Center and Ms. Etre said the center is not currently covered by Christus through its community benefit fund. The center is an important referral facility to the hospital.

Commissioner Anaya requested a breakdown of the patients using the Sobering Center in terms of how many patients are repeat patients. Mr. Valdez said in FY11 the recidivism rate was up to 38 percent and this year the percentage dropped to 27 percent.

Commissioner Anaya said referrals, screening and connections between all the providers are important and he asked the HPPC to investigate whether a truly comprehensive integrated database is being developed. He cautioned that it should not be the hospital's responsibility instead it should be a network of information, screening, assessment and referral connected to all of the community providers.

According to Mary Justice, Mr. Valdez said the drop in the repeat rate is due to partnering with PMS and the program that addresses the high users of services at the hospital and jail, aggressive case management of the clients at the center and directing patients to long-term treatment programs.

Commissioner Vigil said it did not surprise her that other counties were utilizing the County's detox center because there is a great need for it in the state. Mr. Valdez confirmed that the center is used for detox for those not needing hospitalization. Ms. Etre said CARE Connection has been restructured with a highly skilled case manager working with the Sobering Center patients. She said there has been an improvement in the CARE Connection's assessments.

With the hospital's psych ward servicing adults, Commissioner Vigil asked where adolescents receive psychiatric services. Mr. Valdez said PMS is handling adolescents. Ms. Etre said most adolescent services are out of Albuquerque.

Mr. Valdez said at this point he does not have a formal dollar amount request for supplemental but he wanted the County Commissioners to begin thinking about the resources available for supplemental.

Ms. Miller said staff has begun investigating available funds. Chair Stefanics asked whether the HPPC would be involved in the funding recommendation process as they have been

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in the past. Ms. O'Connor said the HPPC September 7th agenda includes supplemental funding if that information is available for review.

HPPC member Blanchard asked who conducts the assessment at the intake site and the initial assessment at the Sobering Center. Ms. Etre said there is a psychiatrist on staff who serves as the medical director for psych services. There are on-call case coordinators who handle assessments. The clinical director from the CARE Connection has also been helpful in assessment.

E. HPPC Update

HPPC chair Judy Williams introduced HPPC members Shirlee Davidson, a psychiatric nurse professor and practitioner, and retired physician Bertha Blanchard. She thanked the Commission for the fine appointments to HPPC and staff. She provided an overview of the HPPC's previous meeting indicating the HPPC unanimously supported the endorsing of smoke-free market rate multi-unit housing as well as public housing to address the second-hand smoke issue.

Regarding the health van, Ms. Williams said an informal study group was established to develop staffing and service recommendations. The final recommendation was to hire a nurse practitioner 5 days a week and a part-time nurse to staff the van 2 days a week. The community needs assessment should help to direct the van locations.

Commissioner Anaya recognized the HPPC for their work regarding the van and said it was a progressive step. He asked to see the van budget and more information regarding linkages with other providers.

Commissioner Vigil said her district is made up of an underserved population and the van best served that area when parked at the San Isidro Church. She asked that the van's schedule include a consistent service pattern.

Ms. Williams said the HPPC feels the van needs more outreach to reach full utilization which requires advance notice, planning and scheduling.

Commissioner Anaya said he has been spending time with District 3 community leaders and a theme he hears is there is a great need for service-related communications. If the community leaders were contacted about the van they could use their roster to inform the community.

Commissioner Holian agreed that contacting community leaders is a crucial link to better exposure of the van. She supported the hiring of a promotora. Ms. O'Connor said she hoped to add that position during next year's budget cycle.

In regards to Commissioner Mayfield's question regarding the disposal of unused prescriptions, Chair Stefanics said that dialogue has begun with the Sheriff. Ms. O'Connor said she would be meeting with the Sheriff to discuss the National Drug Take Back Initiative Day in September where law enforcement needs to be present.

Commissioner Mayfield said it was important to educate the seniors about the shingles vaccine and he hoped the health van could offer this service. Ms. O'Connor said a meeting with Department of Health is scheduled. The expense of the shingles vaccination is prohibitive.

Chair Stefanics suggested HPPC research whether a drug company would use Santa Fe seniors as a pilot project for the vaccine. Ms. Williams said there are clearly implications that would need to be thoroughly researched. Commissioner Anaya suggested the County could offer placing an advertisement around the health van in exchange for free vaccines.

Commissioner Mayfield asked whether the HPPC had considered an intern-type program with the County's Health Van. Ms. Davidson said it would be a wonderful place for students to gain experience in community health. The NP job description includes background in community health.

The Commissioners requested that staff keep them apprised of vacancies on boards and commissions.

Ms. Williams said the special meeting scheduled with Christus to discuss their IRS Form 990 regarding non-profit status was rescheduled to occur at the regular September 7th HPPC meeting. She encouraged the Commissioners to attend. Chair Stefanics suggested the HPPC, Christus and the League of Women Voters sponsor a public event to learn about the hospital's financials.

VIII. Matters from Staff

None were presented.

IX. Matters from the Board

Chair Stefanics said the State HSD is considering consolidating all of the counties' SCP funds into one pool and dividing the pool into indigent and uncompensated care. Obviously, the funds have not been adequate to meet the indigent needs and spreading it out to two populations will not be enough. HSD has the authority to make rule changes for the state and wants to avoid legislation. The ideas will be presented to the Hospital Association and the Association of Counties. Changes need to be in place by January 1, 2014. A great deal of discussion remains regarding this idea.

X. Action Items

A. Approval of Indigent Hospital and County Health Claims

Chair Stefanics moved to approve 745 claims in the amount of \$885,348.01 as presented by staff. Commissioner Anaya seconded and the motion passed by unanimous [5-0] voice vote.

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 Stefaniec

Liz Stefaniec, Commission Chair
Indigent Hospital & Healthcare Board

ATTEST TO:

Valerie Espinoza

VALERIE ESPINOZA
COUNTY CLERK

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Farrell
Karen Farrell, Wordswork



COUNTY OF SANTA FE)
STATE OF NEW MEXICO) ss

INDIGENT MINUTES
PAGES: 6

I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for
Record On The 27TH Day Of September, 2012 at 04:14:26 PM
And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # **1682848**
Of The Records Of Santa Fe County

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