

MINUTES OF THE
SANTA FE COUNTY
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

September 12, 2024

Santa Fe, New Mexico

1. A. This first meeting of the Santa Fe County Behavioral Health Leadership Council (BHLC) was called to order by Alex Dominguez at approximately 10:04 a.m. on the above-cited date.

The meeting was held as a hybrid with people participating virtually and in person.

B. The following members were present:

Members Present:

Sylvia Barela
Craig O'Hare
Nicole Ault
Michael DeBernardi
Kate Field
Jorge Gonzales
Jonathan Gordon
Stacey Martin [Webex]
Terry Sine
Kathleen Tunney

Member(s) Excused:

None

County Staff Present:

Anne Ryan, CSD Director
Alex Dominguez, CSD, Behavioral Health Services, Program Manager
Elizabeth Peterson, [Webex] CSD
Chanelle Delgado, [Webex] CSD, DWI Program, Teen Court
Jennifer Romero, [Webex] CSD Deputy Director

Other(s) Present:

Mark Boschelli, Contractor – Behavioral Health County Corrections
Brian Serna, Serna Solutions

D. Approval of Agenda

Mr. O'Hare moved to approve and Ms. Barela seconded. That agenda as published was unanimously approved.

2. Welcome and Introductions

Anne Ryan welcomed the council members and introduced herself as the new Community Services Director. She highlighted that she has 30 years of experience in public health and social services and served as the CSD Director in Sandoval County.

Ms. Ryan noted that Ramona Flores-Lopez will be serving as the coordinator/facilitator for this council but was unable to attend today.

The County is beginning FY25 and also developing its strategic plan which covers a four-year period. This council will serve as advisory to the Board of County Commissioners.

Ms. Ryan highlighted the Building Bridges Initiative, a federal grant that has under a dozen national sites participating. The initiative is for the detained population with three primary goals and has to do with medically-assisted treatment/MAT, on-site managed withdrawal, offering on-site induction of MAT services and the continuity of care. She envisioned this council participating in the continuity of care. The County warden has offered to meet with this group and Ms. Ryan added that the jail facility has very impressive clinical services.

Referring to the recent special session, Ms. Ryan said HB1 provided Administrative Office of the Courts/AOC \$3 million for “assisted out-patient treatment programs and competency diversion pilot programs.” The focus is on assisted out-patient treatment/AOT. The governor convened a meeting in early July urging the launch of pilot projects. Las Cruces currently has a successful AOT. program. AOC will be leading this effort and are in the process of hiring program managers specific to the programs with two in Bernalillo County and one in Santa Fe. Santa Fe County is not the driver of the program but instead a participant.

The Council members introduced themselves and this is an abbreviation of their comments.

Stacy Martin: Santa Fe Recovery Center and delighted to be part of this council.

Jorge Gonzales: National Latino Behavioral Health Association and serves as the program director to connect voices in the substance abuse prevention program.

Nicole Ault: City of Santa Fe Fire Department, behavioral health manager, and oversees the mobile integrated health office and the alternative response unit.

Jonathan Gordon: Retired family physician, served on the Mental Health Colorado board and is currently on the Santa Fe NAMI board.

Sylvia Barela: Director, Via Positiva, behavioral health consulting company and has worked over 20 years in the provider community in adult substance use disorder and adolescence treatment.

Michael DeBernardi: CEO of Life Link in Santa Fe and has been with Life Link 20 years.

Craig O’Hare: Life Link board chair and serves on the NAMI Santa Fe board.

Kate Field: New Mexico Solution Crisis Services Director. Serves as a direct care provider at PMS and previously served with Santa Fe County Fire Department.

Kathleen Tunney: Christus St. Vincent, Director of Community Health and Health Equity.

Terry Sine: Licensed clinical social worker representing PMS throughout the state.

Mr. Dominguez lauded the council's varied expertise.

3. Election of Officers

Mr. Dominguez said the enabling resolution requires the election of a chair and vice chair. Self-nominations were welcomed.

Vice Chair: Craig O'Hare offered to serve as the Council's vice chair. By unanimous voice vote, Craig O'Hare was elected vice chair.

Chair: Sylvia Barela volunteered to serve as Chair. By acclamation, Sylvia Barela was named chair.

4. Discussion on By-Laws and Meeting Schedule

Mr. Dominguez distributed the DWI Advisory County by-laws as an example of what this council will need to develop.

Mr. O'Hare noted the overlap between by-laws and the resolutions that established the council. He suggested redrafting the "therefore, be it resolved" section of the resolution to create the by-laws.

Ms. Ryan suggested the council consider developing subcommittees to serve as this council's engine.

Mr. O'Hare offered to rework the resolution into draft by-laws for presentation at the next meeting. Chair Barela offered to work with him.

Mr. Dominguez said meetings are scheduled every two months. He recommended the draft by-laws come to him for forwarding to the other members.

5. Council Vacancies and Recruitment Plan

Mr. Dominguez noted that the resolution allowed for 15 members and the council is currently at 10.

Ms. Ryan said it is important that there is equal representation within the County's 2,700 square miles. The indigenous population and youth are not yet represented. As an aside, she mentioned

that this council will have a presence on the County's website which could serve as a vehicle for recruitment.

Mr. Dominguez outlined the vacancies on the council: youth, Indian Health Services, Santa Fe public schools, Edgewood, northern Santa Fe County and an HPPC representative. The original recruitment process was via an open call; however, at this point the council can recruit differently.

Chair Barela requested volunteers to serve on a subcommittee for recruitments. Mr. Gordon volunteered. The chair offered to work with Mr. Dominguez to determine the best means of outreach for recruitment.

A complete council roster will be forwarded to each of the members.

Mr. O'Hare said the specific duties of the council as listed in the resolution #2024-37, further exacerbated his concern that meeting every other month was not adequate.

- a. Complete an inventory of existing behavioral health programs and funding streams in Santa Fe County;
- b. Recommend behavioral health priorities and action steps to fund those priorities through use of pooled resources;
- c. Recommend ways for provider alignment and reducing duplication, such as MOUs and provider agreements for data sharing;
- d. Recommend advocacy priorities and approaches to increasing resources for programs and services;
- e. Recommend ways for agencies to collaborate on common public health goals;
- f. Review and provide suggestions on proposed legislative initiatives;
- g. Report annually to the Santa Fe County Health Policy and Planning Commission (HPPC) and annually to the BCC;
- h. Recommend to the County, upon request by the CSD, regarding the expenditures of funds to meet the needs of individuals with behavioral health issues and their families;
- i. Recommend ways to increase public education and awareness of behavioral health issues and available services to the general public; and
- j. Provide such other assistance as directed by the BCC.

Mr. O'Hare noted that the universe of behavioral health is huge and he advocated prioritizing what the Council really wants to focus on. He hoped for meaningful and effective outcomes, rather than outputs. What do we want to get done in the next year? What's realistic? And what's not?

Ms. Ryan said there was nothing preventing this body from revising the resolution and she encouraged the council to narrow their focus and then revise the resolution.

Mr. Dominguez said the subcommittees will do the work between the meetings and make presentations to the full body. He mentioned that the council is governed by the Open Meetings

Act which includes noticing meetings and subcommittees do not require notice.

Chair Barela noted item g, that calls for reporting to HPPC and BCC on an annual basis and 8 which requires the council present its work plan to the BCC. Mr. Dominguez said a lot of the resolution items have supporting documentation available. Ms. Ryan mentioned that the AOC project provides tangible, workable, and measurable initiative that would provide a safety net to a very vulnerable population. That could prove to be an effective opportunity with meaningful impact.

Chair Barela noted that the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic Initiative/CCBHC that the Santa Fe Recovery Center is working on could be an initiative to support that effort. Ms. Martin agreed that there were many collaborative opportunities to take advantage of.

It was mentioned that until everyone was well acquainted with the many acronyms being used, the full name should be stated.

Referring to the resolution language which cites the council's purpose to provide recommendations concerning a comprehensive system of behavioral health services, Mr. Gordon cautioned that the resolution calls for a 30,000 foot mark rather than being too granular. Systems fail with too many non-integrated/non-coordinated agendas occurring and the big picture is not met. He advocated a dome-like approach.

Chair Barela noted that the CCBHC is a federal model utilized to help create a comprehensive system of behavioral health care in communities and New Mexico is now implementing it. The Santa Fe Recovery Center received a federal grant to help support implementation of the model.

Ms. Ryan recommended a presentation of mapping for the council to identify which areas they want to target. Chair Barela noted that she had been part of this council in the past and there was discussion on services in the community and the gaps and she requested that Ms. Flores-Lopez provide a presentation on that. She recalled that youth services and AOT (assisted out-patient treatment) were on an initial priority list the council developed.

Ms. Ryan offered to arrange a consultant led retreat-type three-hour working lunch to map out the identified core services, providers of those services and to get a sense of what is out there.

Ms. Ault suggested developing a case/hypothetical client and describe how that case would go through the system – from crisis encounter, hospitalization, jail, services to MAT/medically assisted treatment. She noted there were a number of pathways that could be reviewed. She and Ms. Field have worked on identifying gaps in the past. If ready, it could be added to the next agenda.

Chair Barela suggested a three-hour meeting to walk a few hypothetical cases through the system of care. A family with a youth, adult and senior was mentioned. Chair Barela said treating the family unit comprehensively across different systems of care should be reviewed. Ms. Ault noted that the difference in services for the youth, adult and senior is substantial. Chair Barela

said if it were a family it would be valuable to see their different needs and how the systems could work together.

Ms. Ryan said Rio Arriba County reached out to the AOC to assist them with trying to ensure provider capacity for those with needs. At the end of the month at Northern New Mexico College/Española the sequential intercept model will be presented where they will collectively map the behavioral health and criminal landscape in Rio Arriba County – identify resources and gaps in practices and programs and create an action plan to support an enhanced collaboration within and across systems. Ms. Field volunteered to participate.

Recognizing it may be semantics; Mr. O'Hare said children and the elderly need to be defined.

Ms. Tunney recommended the presence of Chanelle Romero or another youth expert.

Mr. Sine offered that many times an individual cannot access assistance because there is a lack of bilingual providers and insurance issues, especially for youth and adolescence.

Chair Barela observed that the system of care tends to be silo'd between youth and adults and one of the goals of the comprehensive system of care is to start thinking about integrating the systems. She suggested working on this for the next few months.

County Youth Initiative

Ms. Delgado said the concept of a multi-agency youth center located in the county with a goal of having an open door and providing various services. Hopefully, the site can be located by the end of 2024 and operational in 2027. The center site is estimated to cost \$13 million and additional funding to leverage partners in the community. The proposal includes children's MRSS/ mobile response and stabilization service. She spoke about a CYFD MRSS initiative currently funded by Medicaid. MRSS is a non-law enforcement response to the youth and family experiencing a crisis which is determined by the parent, guardian or youth. There were many services contemplated in the center including intensive case management.

Ms. Ryan said the County is considering the La Sala area to create a wellness campus. She asked that any property suggested be forwarded to her.

Brian Serna, Serna Solutions, said his firm is creating curriculums to address families in English and Spanish and training parents skills for how to best support their youth in any behavioral health issue. Regarding a site for the youth center, he suggested reviewing county data to determine where most families live.

6. Next Meeting

The council meets every other month on the second Thursday. The next meeting is scheduled for November 14th and a different location will be required. The calendar can be found on the County's webpage.

Mr. O'Hare reiterated that meeting every other month was not adequate and further noted that meeting in person is favorable to on-line.

The three hour session will be reviewed by staff and Chair Barela. However, meeting more often may be difficult because of time commitments.

7. **Adjournment**

This meeting was declared adjourned at approximately 11:30 a.m.

Approved by:



Sylvia Barela, Chair
Behavioral Health Advisory Council

Respectfully submitted by:


Karen Farrell, Wordswork