

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

**Minutes- September 4, 2009**

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>ACTION</u>	<u>PAGE(S)</u>
<b>ROLL CALL</b>	<b>Quorum</b>	<b>1-2</b>
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**PUBLIC COMMENT  
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**None**

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**a) NEXT MEETINGS:**

- 1) The next HPPC Executive Committee Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 16, 2009 from 8:30-10:00 a.m. at the Santa Fe County Health and Human Services Department, Suite B. However, Chairman Martinez asked if the meeting date could be changed because he had a conflict. This was rescheduled for September 9, 2009 at 8:30 a.m.
- 2) The next scheduled regular HPPC meeting is October 2, 2009 from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Santa Fe County Health & Human Services Department, Suite B.
- 3) Jail Health Subcommittee meeting is on September 16, 2009 from 2:30-4:00 p.m. at the Santa Fe County Health and Human Services Department, Suite B. **12-13**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**13**

**MINUTES OF THE**  
**SANTA FE COUNTY**  
**HEALTH POLICY & PLANNING COMMISSION**

**September 4, 2009**

A Meeting of the Santa Fe County Health Policy and Planning Commission was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Chairman Larry Martinez 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:**

Larry Martinez, Chairman  
Terrie Rodriguez, Vice Chair  
Arturo Gonzales, Vice Chair  
Nancy S. Adelsheim  
Erika Campos  
John Cassidy  
Fiquet Hanna Duckwoth  
Valery Henderson  
Patricio Larragoite  
Dr. Frantz Melio  
Elizabeth Reynolds  
Beverly Russell  
Ardis M. Thomas  
John "Jack" White

**MEMBER(s) ABSENT:**

Rick Adesso, excused  
Louis Carlos, excused  
Lydia Zepeda Jennings, excused  
Tanya Montoya, resigned  
Melissa Manlove, excused  
Judith K. Williams, excused

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Marie Garcia, Health and Human Services Division  
Steve Shepherd, Health and Human Services Division Director

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Rhonda Avidon, NM Aging & Long Term Services Department  
Anna Hargreaves, Department of Health Diabetes Prevention & Control Program  
J. Alex Valdez, President/CEO CHRISTUS/St. Vincent Regional Medical Center  
Julia Valdez, Constituent Services Liaison for BCC Commissioner Liz Stefanics  
Jo Ann G. Valdez, Stenographer

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Item 4a) Healthcare Assistance Program report was deleted.

**Commissioner Cassidy moved to approve the agenda, as amended. Commissioner Larragoite seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by voice vote.**

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: August 7, 2009**

Chairman Martinez noted that he had some minor revisions to the Minutes and would be willing to share those, if any one is interested. He asked members if there were any corrections or additions to the Minutes.

The following changes were made to the Minutes of the August 7, 2009 meeting:  
Page 1, Ms. Julia Valdez requested that her title be changed to: Constituent Services Liaison.

Page 9, 6<sup>th</sup> paragraph was changed to read: *“Chairman Martinez noted that the federal grant for SBIRT ended in September 2008 limiting resources for the radio contract.”*

Page 9, last paragraph, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> sentences were changed to read: *“He noted that the Task Force may develop recommendations to invite the schools to participate, specifically the SWAT teams from the schools. He said a resolution was passed that requires the Task Force to have recommendations completed within 60 days.”*

**Commissioner Russell moved to approve the Minutes of the August 7, 2009 meeting, as amended. Commissioner Cassidy seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by voice vote.**

**STAFF REPORTS:**

**a. Healthcare Assistance Program**

This agenda item was deleted.

## **PRESENTATIONS:**

### **a. Behavioral Health Needs of the Elderly:**

#### **(Rhonda Avidon/NM Aging & Long Term Services Department)**

Chairman Martinez introduced Rhonda Avidon of the NM Aging and Long Term Services Department.

Ms. Avidon made a PowerPoint presentation to the Commission on the behavioral health needs of the elderly. [A copy of the presentation was distributed.]

Ms. Avidon explained that older adults are a diverse group that represent three sectors-young old (65-75 years of age), middle old (75-85) and old/old (85 +). They also represent five different cohorts:

1. *World War I* – born prior to 1912, ages 97+
2. *Depression* – 1912 to 1921, ages 88-96
3. *World War II* – 1922 to 1927, ages 82-87
4. *Post War* – 1928 to 1945, ages 64-81
5. *Baby Boomer #1*, 1946 to 1954, ages 55-63

Ms. Avidon said these are five very distinct kinds of mindsets and we tend to group older adults together and not make these generational differences.

Ms. Avidon reported that New Mexico is facing its own “Senior Tsunami”. Presently there are over 250,000 older adults here in New Mexico and that number will double by the year 2030, to the point where 1 out of every 4 New Mexicans will be over the age of 65. In fact, by the year 2030, New Mexico is projected to rank fourth in the nation in the percentage of population of people over 65. Ms. Avidon broke down the population percentages by county and Harding County had the highest population of people who are 65 or older and McKinley County had a much lower population percentage of people who are 65. This was based on the 2000 census.

Ms. Avidon explained that older adult behavioral health issues pose a serious public health problem. They are indicated by poorer health outcomes, higher healthcare costs, transinstitutionalization, highest rate of suicide is among the elderly; fastest growing population segment is 85+ and too few geriatric mental health professionals (only 18 in the entire State, of which 12 of them are in Albuquerque). Ms. Avidon noted that older adults with depression have 50% higher health care costs than older adults who do not have depression.

Ms. Avidon said because suicide is such an issue for older adults, she wanted to focus on this. Nationally, they make up 14% of the population but they make up over 20% of suicides. She thinks this is an underestimated percentage number because it does not include many things like the fact that there are fewer autopsies performed on older adults to find out the causes of death and the fact that they may be considered accidental suicides when they have taken too much medication. She noted that 70% of completed suicides of older adults, these people visited their primary care physicians within months of their

completed suicide. One thing that this implies is that primary care physicians have a unique opportunity to intervene when it comes to geriatric suicides. The highest rate of suicide is among men over 70. 81% of men complete suicide and 19% of women complete suicide. Ms. Avidon noted that suicide for women typically peaks at 45-54. In ages 15-24, there is 1 completed suicide per 150 attempts but in ages 65 or over; there is 1 completed suicide per 4 attempts. She reported in New Mexico there is about one suicide per day, in 2005 347 New Mexicans died by suicide-83% were men and 17% were women. Ms. Avidon said there were 179 homicides that same year. New Mexico ranks 5<sup>th</sup> in the nation in suicide rates overall. Firearms were the leading method in elderly (71%) and are the most lethal method with the least likelihood of rescue.

Ms. Avidon explained the unique behavioral health considerations of older adults as follows:

- Underutilize treatment
- Geriatric assessment discrepancies
- Co-morbidity with physical illness
- Multiple medications-75% of older adults take more than 4 medications a day, however under medicating is just as much an issue as over medicating.
- Unfamiliarity with testing-older adult population is not comfortable with testing
- Ageism-there is an assumption that depression is part of aging and some programs, physicians think that older adults are too old to benefit from services.
- Cultural competency
- PTSD overlooked
- Transfer trauma
- Sexual dysfunction

Ms. Avidon reported on the challenges in providing behavioral health services in New Mexico as follows:

- Per capita spending
- Primary care
- Home based services
- Overuse of institutions
- Fragmentation
- Untrained workforce
- Transportation
- Culture-the stigma that is associated with behavioral health and substance abuse issues. Also the lack of Spanish speaking counselors is a major issue in New Mexico.

Commissioner Larragoite said he sees social isolation in older adults, particularly in rural and agricultural communities. Older adults do not have many people that they interact with. Also, depression sets in when older adults lose their ability to drive.

Chairman Martinez said that it seems like we tend to forget the older population when it comes to behavioral health-all the resources and services are usually directed towards the

younger population, particularly the youth when it comes to substance abuse issues. He noted that they have been talking about using SBIRT, the Screening Brief Intervention Referral Treatment program, for identifying substance abuse and alcohol abuse at the primary care setting but SBIRT also consists of anxiety disorder and depression. He said that it seems to him like there is an opportunity to do a screening when older adults visit their primary care providers.

Commissioner Gonzales noted that SBIRT has been working with the Department of Aging, particularly around the issue of consent for losing individual rights, or when an individual is assessed for capacity to make decisions and they are placed in a nursing home. SBIRT has done some assessments to determine how they can help these individuals and they applied for grants to do assessments in senior centers that would focus on risk behaviors, such as substance abuse, depression and anxiety with the idea that a counselor would be there for them to talk about their issues.

Chairman Martinez said this is an issue that the Commission can highlight as something that has been neglected when the Commission updates the Call to Action.

Commissioner Larragoite noted that many more of the health care providers are approaching the baby boomer age and are retiring. He suggested that the Commission include some type of workforce development component when considering the Call to Action.

Ms. Avidon said that checking or following up on the older adult population on a weekly basis has been very effective.

Commissioner Adelsheim noted that Women's Health Services has a behavioral health group for older women that is staffed by a counselor, as well as a primary care physician. They get about 25-35 women weekly.

**b. Prescription Trails:  
(Commissioner Rodriguez/Anna Hargreaves)**

Ms. Hargreaves reported on the Prescription Trails program, which is a program designed to increase walking and wheelchair rolling on suggested routes in Santa Fe and promotes healthy lifestyles for families. Healthcare providers write prescriptions for walking for their patients based on their current physical condition and to treat and prevent a number of chronic conditions such as diabetes, depression and high blood pressure. The prescriptions come with a walking guide that lists parks and trails in the community, making it easy for patients to find options for walking in different areas of the city. Ms. Hargreaves reported that they will be adding the County trails in the Walking Trail Guide. She noted that the City Santa Fe Trails Division was actively involved in identifying the parks that have a bus stop. She mentioned that their website has a short PowerPoint training for providers.

*(Walking Trails Guides 2009 were distributed. A copy of the article about the Program that was published in The New Mexican dated August 28, 2009 was also distributed.)*

Commissioner Cassidy said La Familia Medical Center received this information and material a few weeks ago and he forwarded it to some physicians. He said the program for his patients has been a hit thus far.

Commissioner Adelsheim said Women's Health Services is excited about getting the material. There are eight providers at Women's Health Services and they are eager to implement the program.

Commissioner Melio asked for some guides to distribute to providers.

Commissioner Gonzales suggested that they distribute guides at the Marty Sanchez Golf Course.

Ms. Avidon will get material to the Commissioners so that they can distribute them to providers.

Commissioner Larragoite said he hopes the Prescription Trails Program is successful and they are able to carry it to the rural communities. He asked how the program is funded.

Ms. Hargreaves said they receive funding from the CDC, the state and from tobacco sales. She explained that they only had to pay for the printing of the books, about \$2.00 per book. However, they probably will have to find other sources when they have to reprint them. They hope to get sponsorships from health plans. Ms. Hargreaves noted that this project was done with the help of volunteers. She said they also helped start the program in Albuquerque. She noted that maps will also be available.

Commissioner Duckworth said in terms of summer versus winter, she suggests that they include indoor opportunities such as malls that have a walking program. She said that some seniors are afraid to walk by themselves, some for personal safety reasons and some have a fear of falling. Therefore, indoor tracks are safer for them. Commissioner Duckworth said she encourages her patients to walk with partners.

**c. H1N1 Summit and Healthy Home Cooking Classes in Tesuque Pueblo (Commissioner Henderson)**

Commissioner Henderson gave an update on the Healthy Home Cooking Classes. She provided a sample of a fruit salad that they had at one of their classes. She distributed a handout that contained various recipes and a list of vegetables, which included the times that they are in season. She reported that the Food Stamp Nutrition Education Program gave them some funding to provide classes particularly to low income households. She said they were holding the classes at a facility at Open Hands but they started a partnership with the Tesuque Pueblo because they have an intergenerational center and it was an opportunity to have evening classes that would be accessible to working families. They



also have a space to provide nutrition education to children. They have had an average of 10-12 families participating. The classes will start again on September 10<sup>th</sup> and will be held on Mondays and Thursdays from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Commissioner Henderson distributed information on the H1N1 Summit. The Summit is scheduled for August 31, 2009 at the Santa Fe Community College, Jemez Conference Room from 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. She will send information on the H1N1 influenza via e-mail to Ms. Marie Garcia and she will forward it to the Commissioners.

Commissioner Melio noted that CHRISTUS/St. Vincent Regional Medical Center has held weekly preparedness meetings. He suggested that the City/County have antibacterial soap/hand gels on hand for areas where people are gathering. He said this would be a fairly inexpensive public health thing to do to get this on people's minds.

Commissioner Duckworth said this is a perfect opportunity for education about prevention.

### **HPPC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**

#### **a) Jail Health Subcommittee**

The next Jail Health Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for September 16, 2009 at 2:30 p.m. at the Santa Fe County Health & Human Services Department Conference Room, 2052 Galisteo Street, Suite B, Santa Fe.

Chairperson Martinez asked Commissioner Adelsheim if she would be interested in serving on the Jail Health Subcommittee.

#### **a) Introduce New Commissioners**

**Complementary & Alternate Medicine – Fiquet Hanna Duckworth**

Senior Citizen – Judith K. Williams

Dental Provider/Community – Patricio Larragoite

Healthcare in Correction Institution-Ardis M. Thomas

Healthcare Community – Nancy Adelsheim

Chairman Martinez introduced and welcomed the new Commissioners.

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

#### **a. Health Para Todos Radio Program Update**

Chairperson Martinez said in April, they interviewed T.R. Reed, who is a worldly renowned expert on health care. T. R. Reed just released his new book entitled "*Health Around the World*". Commissioner Larragoite noted that Collective Works Bookstore downtown has copies of the book for sale.

Chairperson Martinez reported that they also had the founder of "Families USA" on a broadcast.

Commissioner Gonzales invited Commissioner Henderson to be a guest on a future broadcast to talk about the H1N1 flu.

Chairman Martinez reported that they concentrated their efforts on the Alcohol Abuse Joint City/County Task Force on the last broadcast. They interviewed Rebecca Beardsley, the DWI Coordinator for Santa Fe County and Shelley Mann-Lev, who is with the Office of Student Wellness of the Santa Fe Public Schools. Chairman Martinez noted that there was an interim meeting of the Task Force yesterday at the Convention Center and the Treatment, Judicial/Law Enforcement, Alcohol Tax Increase and Education Work Groups gave interim reports. There will be a joint City/County meeting of the Task Force on September 17<sup>th</sup> where the recommendations of the subcommittees will be presented. Commissioner Gonzales is working on having Yolanda Briscoe of the Santa Fe Recovery Center at the next broadcast to talk about this.

Commissioner Gonzales noted that they also covered the last Town Hall meeting that Congressman Ben Ray Lujan held.

Commissioner Campos announced that CHRISTUS/St. Vincent Regional Medical Center is hosting a Health and Safety Safari on campus on September 26<sup>th</sup>. They will be having their annual breast cancer screening next weekend.

Commissioner Gonzales mentioned that the Joint Commission on Hospital Accreditations is considering the possibility of requiring that all hospitals have some level of screening and brief intervention and appropriate treatment within their hospital because they are looking at the number of incidences of substance abuse, depression, etc. He said this would be a cost saving measure once it is implemented, so they might make this a requirement for accreditation purposes.

**b. Other Matters from the Commission-Subcommittee Updates**

**Community Benefit Funds Committee**

Commissioner Russell reported that they need additional members to serve on the Community Benefit Funds Committee. Commissioner Larragoite offered to serve on the Committee.

**CHRISTUS/St. Vincent Regional Medical Center Update**

Mr. Alex Valdez provided the CHRISTUS/St. Vincent Regional Medical Center update. He reported that he was informed by the County Manager, Roman Abeyta last Wednesday that they would not be entering into a Memorandum of Agreement with CSVRMC for this current fiscal year. He noted that they have negotiated with Santa Fe County on a Memorandum of Agreement for a number of years (since 1999). Mr. Valdez reported on what this means from the hospital perspective, particularly when it comes to the Community Benefit dollars, as follows:

- It is CSVRMC intent for this current fiscal year FY2010 to come up with the same or similar amount that they have historically allotted for Community Benefit funds.
- They will continue to utilize the Health Policy and Planning Commission in following the process that has been done historically for the purpose of determining what organizations will receive these funds. Mr. Valdez said he has always appreciated the role that this Commission plays in that respect. They want to continue this for this current fiscal year.
- CSVRMC received \$410,000 last year for Community Benefit Funds. Mr. Valdez said they will continue to commit to support the Community Benefit Funds, Project Access and First Born activities. Su Vida will continue as an obligation of SVRMC Support Co.
- CSVRMC currently pays 50% for the Medical Director at the Adult Detention Center and are willing to continue to do this but the County Manager has indicated that this would strictly be funded through the County. Therefore, the hospital participation will be gone.
- The County Manager also indicated that they will cover the costs for the Adult Detention Center and the Sobering Center.
- CSVRMC would like to see the efforts- with regard to behavioral health and substance abuse for New Mexico- continue. Mr. Valdez asked the Commission to think about making this the priority driver for the Community Benefit Funds.

Commissioner Gonzales asked why the County decided not to enter into the Memorandum of Agreement with CSVRMC.

In response, Mr. Valdez said this was done in Executive Session and he is not at liberty to speak about the rationale behind that.

Commissioner Gonzales asked what impact this would have for CSVRMC.

Mr. Valdez said the total amount of the Memorandum of Agreement was \$12.1 million. The amount of funding that will go from CSVRMC to the County is \$10.1 million. Mr. Valdez explained that the Memorandum of Agreement has no relationship to the Sole Community Provider funding.

Commissioner Rodriguez said, as the Chair of the CARE Connection Committee, they certainly need to have CSVRMC as a partner and their support.

Mr. Valdez reported that CSVRMC received a letter on August 19<sup>th</sup> from the State of New Mexico that indicated that CSVRMC is eligible for \$13 million in Supplemental Sole

Community Provider funding, but in order to access it, Santa Fe County needs to appropriate approximately \$2.6 million. A letter was delivered to Santa Fe County informing them that CSVRMC needs the County to fully fund Supplemental Sole Community Provider for this fiscal year. The reasons for this are as follows:

- 1) Supplemental Sole Community Provider funding is used to fund hospitals for the upper payment limit for services that have already been rendered to Medicaid clients, to reimburse hospitals at least up to the Medicare rate-even though the Medicare rate is far below the cost of service that CSVRMC provides. The Economic Stimulus Package readjusted the State participation match and the County has received a credit of about \$3 million, going back to October 2008. This is money that the County has received from gross receipt taxes for indigent funds that they then put up for match, and because of the Stimulus package, the County received a credit, so it reduced the amount that the County had to pay.
- 2) \$500 million in Medicaid cuts are coming. CSVRMC is very concerned about Medicaid funding for this fiscal year and the coming fiscal year.
- 3) Santa Fe County has to have a response by September 18<sup>th</sup> to the State Human Services Department. For three years now, Santa Fe County has not funded Supplemental at all, and as a result, New Mexico has left millions of dollars on the table that could have been accessed for health care.
- 4) The State currently has a deficit for the current fiscal year of approximately \$433 to \$470 million. The Medicaid Advisory Committee has already issued a list of actions that they are considering in order to balance the Medicaid budget. One of them is reducing hospital payments.

Commissioner Gonzales said he finds this disturbing - in addition to the potential fiscal impact for health care for Santa Fe County- that the Board of County Commissioners made a decision of such magnitude as this without informing this Commission and asking for input from the Commission. He said it kind of slaps, in his view, the role of the HPPC in its face.

Commissioner Gonzales asked Mr. Valdez if he knew what the base would be for next year. Mr. Valdez said no. He said the Commission needs to keep in mind that this supplemental is not the base. CSVRMC already took a hit on the base this fiscal year. The Supplemental will come around again January 15<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Melio said given the current budget constraints, it doesn't make sense that the County would not participate in a Memorandum of Agreement with CSVRMC in order to access federal dollars for health care.

Commissioner Cassidy said things don't add up with respect to the county's budget, the cuts and the County's ability to cover these costs. These questions have to be answered.

Commissioner Campos asked the Commission to keep in mind the H1N1 flu and what the ER might see in the future with respect to this.

**Commissioner Gonzales moved that the Health Policy and Planning Commission firmly recommends to the Board of County Commissioners that they appropriate \$2.6 million from the County fund as a match for the Supplemental Sole Community Provider Funds of \$13 million, no later than September 18, 2009. Commissioner Cassidy seconded the motion, which passed by roll call vote. (9 for, 1 against) Commissioner Melio abstained from voting having declared a conflict of interest.**

Commissioner Melio requested that the Commission get some sort of update on what the County sees going forward, how the monies will be forwarded, etc. so that the Commission can get an idea of what is happening.

**Commissioner Gonzales moved that the Health Policy and Planning Commission get additional information, or a meeting be scheduled with respect to what the future holds on the Memorandum of Agreement funding, what plans need to be made, what the landscape looks like, what the HPPC's role is in addressing this. Commissioner Melio seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by voice vote.**

Mr. Shepherd offered to provide a follow up report at the next HPPC meeting.

Commissioner Larragoite suggested that the Commission formulate a strategic plan.

Chairman Martinez referred to the copy of the letter to the Board of County Commissioners that was done as a result of the July 22<sup>nd</sup> Special Meeting that was held at the request of the Board of County Commissioners. He said this addresses the issues that were brought up at the Special Meeting that was held for the purpose of securing information from CSVRMC and public comment.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None presented.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**a. Next meetings:**

- 1) The next HPPC Executive Committee Meeting is scheduled for September 9, 2009 from 8:30-10:00 a.m. at the Santa Fe County Health and Human Services Department, 2052 Galisteo Street, Suite B.

- 2) The next scheduled regular HPPC meeting is October 2, 2009 from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Santa Fe County Health & Human Services Department, 2052 Galisteo, Suite B.
- 3) The next Jail Health Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for September 16, 2009 from 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Santa Fe County Health & Human Services Department, 2052 Galisteo, Suite B.

Commissioner Campos announced that CSVRMC will be doing their annual prostate screening on September 26<sup>th</sup> and their annual breast cancer screening on October 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Having completed the agenda and with no further business to come before the Commission, Commissioner Melio moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Cassidy and passed by unanimous voice vote, the meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

**Approved by:**

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**Larry Martinez, Chairman**

Respectfully submitted by:

*Jo Ann G. Valdez*, Stenographer