

MINUTES OF THE
SANTA FE COUNTY
HEALTH POLICY & PLANNING COMMISSION

January 26, 2023

Santa Fe, New Mexico

1. A. This meeting of the Santa Fe County Health Policy & Planning Commission (HPPC) was called to order by Chair Laurie Glaze at approximately 10:00 a.m. on the above-cited date

Due to COVID-19 restrictions this meeting was held on the virtual platform Webex.

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

Members Present:

Laurie Glaze
Steven Berkshire
Christa Coggins
Nelsy Dominguez
Sandra Dransfield
Jane Hajovsky
Susan Lyons
Craig Schermerhorn
Antoinette Villamil

Member(s) Excused:

None

County Staff Present:

Rachel O'Connor, Community Services Director
Patricia Boies, Director, Health Services Division
Elizabeth Peterson, LEAD Program Manager
Jennifer Romero, Health Care Assistance Program Manager
Alex Dominguez, Behavioral Health Program Manager
LeAnne Rodriguez, Teen Court Program Manager
Chanelle Delgado, Youth Services Program Manager
Joanne DeBaca, DWI Compliance Supervisor
Derek Williams, Warden
Mark Boschelli, Santa Fe County Corrections

SPCC CLERK RECORDED 02/15/2024

Others Present:

Kate Field, Director, Crisis Services, La Sala
Analyn “Bagel” Schwaegel, Life Link, RISE Program
Chene Eaton, BeWellNM
Justine Peralta, BeWellNM
Audie Nadler, NM DOH Health Promotion Coordinator

C. Introductions

Those present introduced themselves.

D. Approval of Agenda

Upon motion by Commissioner Dransfield and second by Commissioner Coggins, the agenda was unanimously approved.

E. Approval of Minutes: September 22, 2022

Commissioner Berkshire moved to approve the minutes as published. Commissioner Lyons seconded and the motion to approve the September 22, 2022 minutes passed by unanimous voice vote.

2. Presentation on Santa Fe County Justice Involved Programs

A. Pre-Arrest Programs

1. Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion.

Ms. Boies stated most of the Community Services Department’s justice-related programs are related to behavioral health issues, and she introduced Elizabeth Peterson.

Ms. Peterson shared a power point, noting that the LEAD program is funded by the Department of Justice and is intended to divert those with unmet behavioral health or substance abuses issues who have been involved in low-level criminal activities. The goals are to decrease criminal behavior, decrease involvement of other agencies, and improve general public safety. The LEAD group is multi-disciplinary and incorporates people from all branches of law enforcement in addition to case managers. It is evidence-based and trauma-informed as well as being participant-driven. Housing is an important component.

Ms. Peterson indicated there are three referral sources: the Sheriff’s Office, the detention center and Edgewood police. There have been 29 referrals and diversions, of which 20 people have completed intake. Sixteen children are impacted. Two people have secured housing with three others pending. Five people are in treatment services. Prior to intake several participants had experienced overdoses and subsequent to intake there have been none. She listed services they provide for the families.

Commissioner Dominguez asked if this was affiliated with the CONNECT program. Ms. Peterson stated any deputy or jail re-entry staff can make a referral and there are two case managers. Additionally, they utilize case managers from other agencies throughout the

CONNECT network. Chair Glaze asked if there was ongoing case management and Ms. Peterson said yes, and participants can continue for as long as they like. The Sheriff's Office trains all deputies in the function of LEAD. A handful of deputies make the majority of referrals.

2. A. Mobile Crisis Response Team/La Sala

Kate Field, Director of Crisis Services for New Mexico Solutions, said she is in charge of the La Sala triage center and the 24/7 Mobile Crisis Response Team. The triage center is open Monday through Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. It is an easy access point for those over 18 to meet with a case manager, nurse or peer support worker. The clients generally have co-occurring problems. Referrals by law enforcement are facilitated.

The Mobile Crisis Response Team has been operating 24/7/365 since 2014, anywhere in the county. This is another option for diversion from jail or the hospital. Both La Sala and interactions with the Mobile Crisis Response Team are entry points to further services. Last quarter crisis triage served 245 clients as first contacts, and there were 92 Mobile Crisis Response Team calls. They can also facilitate psychiatric referrals. Ms. Field said there are monthly trainings for first responders. She lauded law enforcement officers for making the extra effort of interacting with these agencies.

Commissioner Dransfield asked if they could do evaluations at La Sala. Ms. Field said they do evaluations for voluntary contacts. The hospital is involved in more acute circumstances.

Commissioner Dominguez noted much depended on officers' discretion and asked if they could be incentivized to make use of these services, and whether other people could make referrals. Ms. Field said command staff is slowly learning these referrals make sense, as are other officers. Mobile Crisis Response Team is a co-responding service initiated by 911 dispatch, so EMS or law enforcement always participate for safety reasons.

Ms. O'Connor thanked Ms. Field and her staff for the difficult job they do. The Community Services Department is planning on launching an assertive community treatment program with intensive case management and they will be issuing an RFP soon.

Chanelle Delgado indicated she did an internship at La Sala which she described as eye-opening. Many clients cycle in and out and this is the only place they can go. There are great needs for housing and medication for those with little in the way of resources.

Commissioner Villamil asked about the City's program for crisis response, the Alternative Response Unit (ARU), and how they interface. Ms. Field said they work in tandem with them almost daily. The ARU runs two units from 8:00 to 5:00, Monday through Friday, and they hope to expand. They choose appropriate calls from the dispatch center and make triage decisions. She characterized them as a strike team.

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2. A. 3. Teen Court Diversion

LeAnne Rodriguez said Teen Court is a pre-adjudicated voluntary diversion program for misdemeanor and traffic offenders for youth 12 to 17 and is an alternative to the juvenile justice system. The emphasis is on restorative justice. Following intake, there is an assessment with the client and the parent or guardian. She described the various steps of the program and provided statistics on referrals. Non-compliance with the program plan results in termination, but this is avoided. Ms. Boies pointed out the youth attorney aspect is about to be reactivated. Ms. Rodriguez said they will be resuming court hearings for traffic violations and misdemeanors with teen attorneys and judges.

Ms. O'Connor mentioned that they make use of outside contractors such as TeamBuilders and the Mountain Center for severe cases. Ms. Delgado added Teen Court is not a clinical service and some cases are referred out for services.

2. B. Jail Programs
1. RISE

Ms. Boies noted that she had sent to Commissioners the recent *Santa Fe New Mexican* article on this program. "Bagel" Schwaegel described the process starting in the jail Matrix pod, the re-entry pod, followed by intake and assessment to determine if they are suitable for the RISE program. They need to be stable and employable. Clients then will enter a halfway house situation for 90 days. She is working to find them employment prior to exit from the jail. Participants must be involved with AA or NA or some kind of therapy.

Commissioner Schermerhorn asked about wardrobe and other necessities for re-entering the workforce. Ms. Schwaegel stated she reaches out to various agencies and community partners for things like that. She also has flex funding. The program is also part of the CONNECT network.

2. B. 2. Detox

Ms. O'Connor stated that in working with the new County Manager, Greg Shaffer, they established the RISE program, just presented, along with funding for housing and other flex funding needs for the re-entry community. They have contracted \$375,000 for the program out of Life Link. Additionally, they are in the preliminary phases of expanding detox services.

2. B. 3. Employment Project

Ms. O'Connor states there is now a plan to train inmates coming out of the Matrix program to do jobs at Santa Fe County and provide them with a stipend in order that they may avoid the revolving door that comes with incarceration. This will work in conjunction with the RISE program. Creative programming like this is possible due to opiate settlement funding. However, this is short-term, one-time money. Ms. Schwaegel added she is also working with County Commissioner Camilla Bustamente in seeking employment opportunities, and is seeking the donation of a car for use by the RISE participants.

2. C. **DWI Program**
 1. **Compliance Monitoring**

Ms. Boies noted that this program is one of most long-standing programs in the County and recently successfully went through the accreditation process.

JoAnne DeBaca stated this is a post-adjudication screening and misdemeanor supervision program and administers the court orders as required by statute. Felony offenders are monitored by the State Probation and Parole Office. Referrals come at the time of sentencing and offenders report to the office and go through a substance abuse and behavioral health assessment and get a treatment recommendation and or referral to other programs. They undergo a compliance hearing 90 days after sentencing and additional hearings if necessary. She provided statistics, noting that compliance monitoring is currently understaffed. Ms. Delgado mentioned they will be posting two job openings and noted these have been challenging to fill.

Commissioner Schermerhorn pointed out what seemed to be an increasing number of unsuccessful compliance terms. Ms. DeBaca said there were a number of reasons for that including COVID, and that in some cases time runs out and the monitoring is extended.

2. C. 2. **Conviction Rates**

Ms. O'Connor said there is a big concern about the fact that the district attorney has a policy of dismissing DWI charges immediately in order to allow more time for gathering evidence, with the intent of refile later. This is concerning because of the lack of swift and sure consequences that can change behavior. Currently, Santa Fe's conviction rate, around 30 percent, is tied for the lowest in the state. She said this is a public health and safety issue. Additionally, if individuals are not convicted, they do not get treatment, an ignition interlock, or the requirement to do community service. Over 60 percent of the dismissed cases have not been refiled. Moreover, cases are being pled down. Discussions continue with the DA, and data is slow in coming in. However, if there is no improvement, the DA might retract the policy. An op-ed might be useful and the HPPC could take an active role.

Chair Glaze suggested convening a small work group to look at the policy and the data and possible responses.

3. **Matters of Public Concern** – None were presented

4. **Matters from Staff**

Ms. Boies announced Public Health Day will be February 21st from 8:00 to 11:45 at the Roundhouse and CONNECT will have a table there. She will send out information, as well as the presentations from today's meeting.

5. **Matters from the Commission** – None were presented.

6. **Adjournment**

This meeting was declared adjourned at approximately 11:41 a.m.

Approved by:

Laurie Glaze, Chair
Health Policy & Planning Commission

Respectfully submitted by:

Debbie Doyle, Wordswork



COUNTY OF SANTA FE)
STATE OF NEW MEXICO) ss

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I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for
Record On The 15TH Day Of February, 2024 at 11:14:03 AM
And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # **2028324**
Of The Records Of Santa Fe County

Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office

Deputy  County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM
Katharine E. Clari