

MINUTES OF THE
SANTA FE COUNTY
HEALTH POLICY & PLANNING COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING

April 14, 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 10:15 a.m. on the above-cited date in the Vernick Conference Room at CHRISTUS St. Vincent Hospital, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

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

Members Present:

Laurie Glaze
Steven Berkshire
Nelsy Dominguez
Sandra Dransfield
Susan Lyons
Craig Schermerhorn

Member(s) Excused:

Christa Coggins
Jane Hajovsky
Antoinette Villamil

County Staff Present:

Rachel O'Connor, Community Services Department Director
Patricia Boies, Health Services Division Director
Chanelle Delgado, Youth Services Program Manager
Alex Dominguez, Behavioral Health Program Manager
Elizabeth Peterson, LEAD Program Manager
Jennifer Romero, Health Care Assistance Administrative Program Manager
LeAnne Rodriguez, DWI Program Manager

Other(s) Present:

Kathy Armijo Etre, CSV Vice President of Mission

C. Introductions

Those present introduced themselves.

SFC CLERK RECORDED 01/18/2024

Ms. Boies introduced Kathy Armijo Etre and invited her to address the Commission. Ms. Etre said her position at CSV includes community health, ethics, spiritual care and mission integration. She welcomed the Commission and thanked them for meeting at the hospital. She provided her personal and employment background noting she has been with CSV since 2010. She spoke of how St. Vincent retained its local identity while becoming part of the CHRISTUS system. She said she was proud of the relationship CSV has with the County, what has been accomplished and the continuing work together.

Ms. Armijo Etre recognized Chair Glaze as the Chair of CSV Volunteer Group made up of over 120 individuals.

D. Approval of Agenda

Upon motion by Commissioner Berkshire and second by Commissioner Lyons, the agenda was unanimously approved.

E. Approval of Minutes: January 26, 2023

Commissioner Dominquez moved to approve the minutes as published. Commissioner Dransfield seconded and the motion to approve the January 26, 2023 minutes passed by unanimous voice vote.

2. Goals for Meeting

Chair Glaze expressed her pleasure at meeting together in person for the first time since 2020. She spoke of the importance for the HPPC to work in partnership with the Community Services Department (CSD). She, Ms. O'Connor and Ms. Boies want to create a stronger relationship between HPPC and CSD to strengthen the priority programs and utilize the HPPC expertise. That can be accomplished by:

- Lending expertise
- Identifying, utilizing and developing public awareness activities
- Promoting and tracking research and evaluation data
- Advocating for the sustainability of programs and policies
- Serving on additional CSD programs

3. Snapshot of Community Service Department Programs

CSD Director O'Connor noted one of the items on the "to do list" is update the *Health Action Plan*. When she first came to the County in 2011 there was only a claim processing division for indigent health claims. With health care reform and the expansion of Medicaid, the Health Services Division was created. The *Health Action Plan* was developed around specific priorities. Santa Fe County worked with the state legislature to be able to use funds to contract with providers to work on those priorities, which are still relevant today.

Ms. O'Connor said the CSD has grown and now there is a Youth Services Division, CONNECT, La Sala, and a recognition of the intersection of what is public safety and public health. She said many of the activities addressed in the plan have been achieved. Strong program managers have addressed issues collectively, and there has been an increased focus within the department on behavioral health and youth services.

Ms. O'Connor said sustainability within all the programs is necessary. Consideration of services for the post pandemic era is very important.

She commended her staff and thanked the Commissioners for their service.

A. Health Action Plan

Patricia Boies, Health Services Division Director, said when the *Health Action Plan* was originally developed, HPPC worked closely with CHRISTUS St. Vincent to prepare a countywide health profile, and a good relationship was developed from that effort. The HPPC and CSD then created the *Health Action Plan*, which has guided the Health Services Division programs and funding since its inception, as well as other CSD programs. The plan identified six priorities:

- Increasing enrollment in health insurance
- Reducing alcohol use
- Reducing drug use
- Reducing suicide
- Reducing low-birth weight
- Increasing consumption of healthy food

Each priority has a set of indicators. Overarching issues were also identified, including the importance of prevention as well as treatment, and the need for greater coordination between agencies and providers. HPPC has revisited the six priorities over the years. A gap analysis was conducted that highlighted behavioral health and housing issues, as well as the need for navigation services. CSD put together an accountable health community, CONNECT, which has helped navigate people to resources and improved coordination among providers.

Another community needs assessment is not necessary to update the plan, and even though there are several other plans within CSD, the *Health Action Plan* could serve as a reference to inform them all.

B. Behavior Health

Alex Dominguez, Behavioral Health Program Manager, said the gap analysis had a recommendation for crisis services, and in 2017 County voters approved a \$2 million bond for a crisis center, and the BCC approved a 1/8 GRT tax designated for the operation of the facility. A “living room” model for the crisis center was designed to create a welcoming setting. NM Solutions operates the crisis center. Santa Fe Recovery operates the Detox Center on the other side of the building.

SFC CLERK RECORDED 01/18/2024

Ms. O'Connor added that CSD is involved with many components in behavioral health: La Sala, treatment dollars, detox, which is funded out of the DWI program, and funding for a re-entry team with the jail. La Sala/NM Solutions is required to cut their contract annually by 10 percent over the next four years to become self-sustaining. She noted that the County has obtained one-time funds from the opiate lawsuit.

Behavioral Health could use HPPC assistance in:

- Developing expertise on La Sala and its connection between mobile crisis, detox, the crisis center and the recently funded assertive community treatment team
- Developing avenues for sustainability in the adult behavioral health program
- Participating in task forces and other groups

C. CONNECT

Jennifer Romero, Manager of the Health Care Assistance Program, said she oversees CONNECT and cremation assistance. CONNECT began in 2018 with eight organizations and 13 navigators in the network, following an accountable health community model. In 2019 the City began to work with the County on CONNECT, and in 2020 that partnership was formalized via an MOU. The platform is web-based, and on-line referral platform was introduced early in the pandemic. CARES Act funding enabled CONNECT to increase its capacity and disbursed approximately \$8.4 million in 2020. American Rescue Plan Act funds were also received and continue to be disbursed. CONNECT's growth capacity is great. There are discussions about making CONNECT a statewide model.

HPPC assistance would be useful for

- Serving on City and County leadership team
- Evaluation of programs
- Outreach with potential partners
- Review of website
- Participate with CONNECT hub navigators at site visits
- Attend navigator meetings and provide insight
- Assist with sustainability planning

D. Diversion/Re-entry

Elizabeth Peterson, Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) Program Manager and contract manager for justice-involved programs, said diversion gets people into community services to address the root causes of their issues. Ms. Peterson noted that LEAD is based on a model from Seattle, which is now a national model. The program is funded by the Department of Justice. The model looks to do things differently for people with mental health challenges, substance abuse, and involvement in low-level criminal activities. The case managers are mobile and provide a long-term, intensive, non-judgmental case management approach. Harm reduction is an important component. LEAD wants to be there when someone is ready for detox. She noted that the program is heavily evaluated.

Ms. Peterson indicated there are three pathway/referral sources: the Sheriff's Office, the detention center, and Edgewood police. There is an operations workgroup where partners within the program – District Attorney, Public Defenders, case management team and Sherriff's Office – meet every two weeks to confer on cases. A second tier is the policy coordinating group, which meets quarterly and looks at evaluation outcomes and challenges. There are six LEAD programs in the state, and as a group they will be applying to DOJ for continuation of funding.

HPPC could assist in:

- A public awareness educational outreach program that is being developed
- Joining the policy coordinating group
- Assisting in identifying funding for sustainability of the program

It was noted that legislative junior funding may be appropriate to seek next session.

E. Youth Services

Chanelle Delgado, Youth Services Program Manager, said Youth Services includes DWI and was established officially in 2021, although the County has been very active in youth services for many years. DWI is included because a required DWI funding component is prevention, starting from elementary age. The Teen Court program is also under this umbrella. Youth programming receives \$1.6 million in contracts. One of the biggest challenges is working on creative ways to engage law enforcement. She noted that the Teen Court program is a pre-adjudicated voluntary diversion program and is considered an adolescent diversion program that has a staff of three. Teen Court looks at the family, what is contributing to the youth's behaviors and how to interrupt the patterns. The program had 386 kids in 2022, and adding the family, the program serves 1,200 people.

Ms. Delgado mentioned new programs including a Violence Prevention initiative with the City and a partnership with CHRISTUS St. Vincent for adolescent behavioral health. An RFP was recently released for that program. Youth Services is also requesting additional funding to fill the gaps.

HPPC assistance is requested in:

- Identifying evidence-based approaches for expansion of funding
- Developing a quarterly reporting tool for the adolescent behavior health with CSV
- Providing feedback on the Teen Court assessment and intake protocol
- Providing input to update the DWI Planning Council Resolution and participating on that council

[The Commission recessed for lunch at 11:30 a.m.]

4. Breakout Tables: Identifying Areas of Interest

Returning from lunch, the Commissioners visited the five tables – *Health Action Plan Update*, Behavioral Health, CONNECT, Diversion/Reentry, and Youth Services – and discussed with the appropriate staff ideas and what they could bring to that division of the CSD.

6. Plenary Reconvening

At 1:30, the Commissioners reconvened and identified their interests.

Commissioner Schermerhorn said he was “delighted” by staff expertise and enthusiasm for the programs. That sentiment was echoed by the other Commissioners.

Commissioner Berkshire said he would volunteer to help update the *Health Action Plan* and also is interested in the CONNECT program.

Commissioner Dransfield thanked staff and Chair Glaze for putting this valuable special meeting together. She has been on the Behavioral Health Leadership Team and spoke of her experience in certification and inspection of providers in the New York State Office of Mental Health. There was a site visit protocol which included peers conducting interviews that she could develop for Behavioral Health. The City-County Violence Prevention task force was also of interest to her.

Commissioner Schermerhorn as a former hospital administrator said he recognized that hospitals were not equipped to handle behavioral health. A focus on behavioral health is appropriate.

Commissioner Lyons said this meeting was very informative. As an attorney, diversion and re-entry is a good fit for her, as well as the City-County Violence Prevention task force. She also offered her editing skills.

Commissioner Dominguez felt she could be helpful to the behavioral health component, particularly in how workforce opportunities can be improved while individuals are in school. She has also been involved in CONNECT and is interested in that program.

Ms. Delgado said the conversations with the Commissioners were very valuable. She appreciated Commissioner Schermerhorn’s knowledge about hospital reporting and how to better capture that data for quarterly reports.

Mr. Dominguez thanked Ms. Boies and Chair Glaze for hosting this event. He was appreciative of the insights offered by the HPPC members. He mentioned the staffing struggle said site visits would be very valuable.

Ms. Peterson said the feeling of partnership with the HPPC is greatly appreciated. Social determinants of health will dictate what the County does. Housing and workforce solutions are critical to success of the work.

Ms. Romero said this meeting provided an opportunity to think about new directions and ideas. She appreciated the shared passion for public health.

Chair Glaze thanked the Commission and said she would be working with Ms. Boies and the program managers to develop the next steps.

Ms. Boies recognized that HPPC is an evolving body and has been significantly involved in all major endeavors of the Community Services Department. She thanked the HPPC for their willingness to share their expertise and said she would be reaching out to the Commissioners who were unable to attend today's meeting.

7. Adjournment

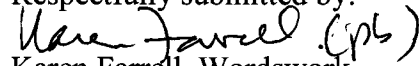
Chair Glaze declared the meeting adjourned at approximately 1:55 p.m.

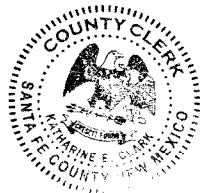
Approved by:



Laurie Glaze, Chair
Health Policy & Planning Commission


Respectfully submitted by:


Karen Farrell, Wordswork



COUNTY OF SANTA FE)
STATE OF NEW MEXICO) ss
HEALTH POLICY & PLANNING COMMISSION
PAGES: 7

I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for
Record On The 18TH Day Of January, 2024 at 02:11:33
And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 2026728
Of The Records Of Santa Fe County

Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office
Katharine E. Clark
Deputy  County Clerk, Santa Fe County, NM

SFC CLERK RECORDED 01/18/2024