

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

**December 4, 2015**

**Santa Fe, New Mexico**

**I.** This regular meeting of the Santa Fe County Health Policy & Planning Commission (HPPC) was called to order by Chair Judith Williams at approximately 9:00 a.m. on the above-cited date at the Santa Fe County Community Services Department conference Room, 2052 Galisteo Street, Santa Fe.

**II.** The following members were present:

**Members Present:**

Judith Williams, Chair  
John Abrams  
Bonnie Keene  
Vivian Heye [telephonically]  
Don Reece  
Carolyn Roberts  
Anna Voltura

**Member(s) Excused:**

AnnaMaria Cardinalli  
Kim Straus  
Reena Szczepanski  
[Three Vacancies]

**County Staff Present:**

Patricia Boies, Director, Health Services Division  
Rachel O'Connor, Director, Community Services Department

**Others Present:**

W. Azul la Luz, San Ildefonso  
Kristen Carmichael, Community Health, Christus St. Vincent  
Desiree Valdez, DOH, Health Promotion  
Jim Breland, Presbyterian  
Deborah Kendall-Gallagher, DOH  
Kelly Gallagher, DOH  
Ron Hale, New Mexico Alliance for Health Policy Councils  
Julian Duran, Blue Cross/Blue Shield  
Rosa Lopez, DOH  
Teresa Flanagan, Christus SV CARE Connection  
Daniel Slavin, SVH Support

### **III. Introductions**

Those present introduced themselves.

### **IV. Approval of Agenda**

Commissioner Abrams moved to approve the agenda and Commissioner Reece seconded. The motion to approve the agenda passed without opposition.

### **V. Approval of Minutes**

Approval of the minutes was deferred and ultimately postponed until the next meeting.

### **VI. Matters of Public Concern**

Desiree Valdez announced that the Health System Innovation project's application deadline was extended. It is now scheduled for March. The summit meeting that was to happen in December was cancelled and may be rescheduled for later.

### **VII. Election of New Chair**

Commissioners Roberts mentioned that Commissioner Szczepanski was willing to accept the nomination and so moved. The nomination was seconded by Commissioner Keene, and Reena Szczepanski was unanimously elected Chair.

Chair Williams was given a round of applause and the thanks from the entire Commission.

### **VIII. Presentations**

#### **A. Health Policy and Legislative Training for Health Councils**

Kelly Gallagher, stated that in addition to her epidemiology work she does some lobbying and bill analysis. She participates in the Policy Committee for the New Mexico Alliance of Health Councils. She said it is their goal to educate community members to become advocates for health policy initiatives.

Ms. Gallagher gave a Power Point presentation which included a schematic on the essential services of the health councils. She said James Ross is the Governor's advisor on public health and is receptive to meeting with constituents. It is also useful to work with state agencies and non-profits. On the community level collaboration with governing bodies and school boards is productive.

She pointed out that over 1,300 bills were introduced at last year's long session, not including resolutions and memorials; very few actually pass. Ms. Gallagher presented a flow chart showing how a bill becomes law, with introductions, committee assignments, floor debates, and vote. Should the bill pass, it goes to the other house for reconciliation and compromise. She

said all of these steps happen in public meetings, and many are streamed live. The legislature website provides daily schedules, bill locators, bill texts, committee memberships with contact information, legislative reports, and financial impact reports..

Don Tripp, as House speaker, plays an important role, as does Senate President Pro Tem Mary Kay Papen. Ms. Gallagher provided lists of House and Senate committees, highlighting those of most interest to the Health Policy Councils. Committees have six options: do pass, do pass with amendments, do not pass, no recommendations, committee substitute, and table. The Governor has various options with regard to bills that have passed, including signing, requesting more information or vetoing. For bills passed within three days of the end of the session, the Governor has 20 days to sign or pocket veto.

Health councils have two champions: Howie Morales in the Senate and Sharon Clahchischillia in the House.

Ron Hale outlined the history of funding requests for health councils in the past several years. This year the request is for \$700,000, which would provide a half-time position for each of the state's community and tribal health councils.

Deborah Kendall-Gallagher stressed the importance of grassroots participation. Anecdotes about how a bill will impact the community are especially effective, and constituent input can carry more weight than input from state agencies. Ms. Gallagher indicated that emphasizing the cost-effective aspects of prevention is positive. Mr. Hale noted that analyses can have a political slant.

Ms. Gallagher reviewed the importance of Financial Impact Reports. She gave the following dates:

- Pre-filing: December 15<sup>th</sup>
- Session convenes: January 19<sup>th</sup>
- Public Health Day: January 26<sup>th</sup>
- Session Ends: February 18<sup>th</sup>

With an eye toward providing input, Commissioner Heye asked about the timeline departments use for developing their budgets. Mr. Hale said it was generally around June, and he suggested contacting a cabinet secretary, for instance Secretary Ward, or the Office of Policy and Accountability at the Department of Health.

[Commissioner Heye excused herself from remainder of the meeting.]

Noting she would be attending a the New Mexico Public Health Association legislative forum the following week, Ms. Boies asked if there were other public health bills coming up. Mr. Hale mentioned the dental therapist bill. Ms. O'Connor stated the Hospital Association would like to recoup the counties' reserve funding, currently used for indigent care and special programs, and use it for Medicaid; however, she doubted it would gain any legislative traction. Additionally, there is a bill proposed by the Drug Policy Alliance to expand the use of Narcan.

## **VIII. Matters from the Commission and Staff**

### **A. Director's Report**

Ms. O'Connor reported that Imagination Library now has 850 kids enrolled and this number will increase. She said they have committed funds to the jail for case management for those being released who have serious mental issues. The jail would like the Health Services Division to participate in a national effort called Stepping Up. A number of the jail initiatives are moving forward slowly but hopefully will have an impact.

Chair Williams asked about the possibility of using the youth facility as transitional housing. Ms. O'Connor said she would have to ask the Corrections Department about that.

Ms. Boies mentioned the Health Care Assistance Program/Indigent Fund will have a meeting with Ms. Szczepanski, Ms. Williams, Catherine Kinney, and Kyra Ochoa to look at other ways to use the reserve fund. She also noted that the financial assistance policies of Christus St. Vincent are still being sought. In addition, it is expected that around 1,000 people will attend a two-day free dental care event scheduled for next April at the convention center, to which the County is contributing in the amount of \$50,000.

### **B. Other Matters from the Commission**

Commissioner Voltura asked about the reserve funds. Ms. Boies said the Health Care Assistance Program/Indigent Fund is used for reimbursing claims and for the contracts for special programs such as the mobile crisis response team and the low birth weight prevention initiative, which are targeted to priorities in the Health Action Plan. Ms. O'Connor clarified that the cash reserves are funds that have not been spent over the last several years. Ms. Boies added that the New Mexico Association of Counties fights attempts by the state to take control of those monies away from the counties.

Chair Williams pointed out that while hospitals' revenues are up, their charity care expenses are down.

Commissioner Reece noted the health clinic in Stanley is yet to open.

## **X. Future Agenda Items**

Ms. Boies anticipated that in January there would be a report on progress from the mobile crisis response team on their first six months of operation. Ms. O'Connor suggested inviting Dede Feldman to talk about possibly using the Fire Department personnel to meet health care needs, particularly using EMTs for home visits for high utilizers and the frail elderly in order to reduce 911 calls. Ms. Feldman has been researching the issue.

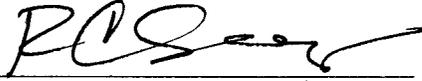
## **XI. Announcements**

- A. Next HPPC meeting Friday, January 8, 2016, 9 a.m., Santa Fe County Community Services Department Conference Room, 2052 Galisteo Street, Santa Fe**

XII. Adjournment

This meeting was declared adjourned at approximately 10:10 a.m.

Approved by:

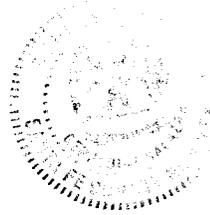
  
Judith Williams, Chair *Reena Szczeplanski*  
Health Policy & Planning Commission

Respectfully submitted by:

*Debbie Doyle*  
Debbie Doyle, Wordswork (DOB)

COUNTY OF SANTA FE ) HEALTH POLICY & PLAN M  
STATE OF NEW MEXICO ) ss PAGES: 5  
I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for  
Record On The 14TH Day Of January, 2016 at 01:48:00 PM  
and Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 1784057  
Of The Records Of Santa Fe County

Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office  
Geraldine Salazar  
Deputy *Laura Hernandez* County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM



SFC CLERK RECORDED 01/14/2016