

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

**January 5, 2018**

**Santa Fe, New Mexico**

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

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

**Members Present:**

Reena Szczepanski, Chair  
Christa Coggins  
Laurie Glaze  
Vivian Heye  
Bonnie Keene  
Don Reece  
Carolyn Roberts  
Kim Straus  
Michael Munson

**Member(s) Excused:**

Anna Voltura

**County Staff Present:**

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

**Others Present:**

Robert Rhatigan, UNM GPS	Julie Madrid, Solace
Tom Massaro, NM DOH	Kristin Carmichael, Southwest Care
Judy Williams, League of Women Voters	Dennis McCutchen, Con Alma
Julian R. Duran, NM BCBS	Betty Sisneros Shover, NAMI
Terrie Rodriguez, NMAHC	Aelysea Webb, NMAC
Terri May, PHS	

**III. Introductions**

Those present introduced themselves.

SFC CLERK RECORDED 02/07/2018

**IV. Approval of Agenda**

Commissioner Reece moved to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Glaze seconded. The motion to approve the agenda passed without opposition.

**V. Approval of Minutes: December 1, 2017**

Commissioner Reece moved approval as presented. Commissioner Roberts seconded and the motion passed without opposition.

**VI. Matters of Public Concern**

Betty Sisneros Shover announced that NAMI and Santa Fe Safe are co-sponsoring a mayoral forum on January 17<sup>th</sup> at 313 Camino Alire, the former Desert Academy. The forum will focus on behavioral health issues. Fliers were distributed.

**VII. Presentations**

**A. The 2020 Census: Why it Matters and What you Need to Know**

Chair Szczepanski said she recently learned that a census undercount can impact funding for many federal programs. She introduced Robert Rhatigan, Senior Research Scientist and Associate director, Geospatial and Population Studies at UNM.

Mr. Rhatigan said UNM's Geospatial and Population Studies Department functions as the State's Demographers Office. The department's director has been the demographer since 1989 and has worked very closely with the Census Bureau. Mr. Rhatigan is one of the state's two liaisons to that bureau. State demographers gather a couple times per year to review processes and improve the Census Bureau's data for the states. The Bureau produces annual population estimates for each state, county and city. An appropriation from the state legislature pays for 2.5 FTEs and there are grants and contracts. An annual contract with NM DOH tailors specific population data that is critical for epidemiological rates.

The department's current focus is gearing up for 2020 because the decennial census count is the foundation for a population estimate. The 2010 census was very successful with proper state and federal funding.

The Census is enshrined in the constitution for congressional apportionment. New Mexico is not really at risk of losing one of its three congressional representatives, however, redistricting and federal funding are based on Census data. Any errors in the 2020 Census will last for the next 10 years.

Mr. Rhatigan reviewed the federal assistance programs that distribute funds based on the Census counts, highlighting that New Mexico received \$2,972 per capita. New Mexico is one of the highest recipients in the nation. If New Mexico is undercounted by one percent, 21,000 people, that would cost the state \$600 million over a 10-year period. There are about 150 programs impacted by the Census and he mentioned. The top 16 include Medicaid, SNAP, highway planning and construction, Title I, national school lunch program, Head Start, housing

vouchers, CHIPS, and foster care. He emphasized the importance of everyone in the state being counted and how much money is at stake.

Mr. Rhatigan said there are tremendous concerns regarding funding at the Census Bureau. The 2010 Census cost approximately \$12 billion and Congress is unwilling to fund at a higher level. The Census is the largest peace time operation that the US government engages in. The Government Accountability Office is aware of the funding issue and has listed the 2020 Census among their highest risk program. Further, this is occurring without permanent leadership at the Bureau and there is concern about the current administration.

There are real and perceived threats to data confidentiality, something which affects people's motivation to accurately respond. Title 13 of US Code makes it very clear that the Bureau is not to share its data with any other federal agency. The DOJ recently requested a citizenship question on the Census. The Census is not about how many citizens live within a jurisdiction but how many people reside there. The Bureau will provide its thoroughly tested recommended questions to Congress on April 1, 2018. Adding a question on citizenship status would be quite dangerous.

New Mexico's population is very difficult to count and that can be attributed to Native Americans living on tribal land in which 10 percent are undercounted; Hispanics which are undercounted by 1.5 to 2 percent, young children are undercounted, and the less money people make the more likely they are to be undercounted.

The 2010 Census was successful because the funding was available for "six knocks" on the door of every New Mexican who did not respond. Local counters will be used for tribal lands. The department is investigating how to duplicate 2010 efforts for the 2020 Census with significantly less funding. Mr. Rhatigan said he hoped the HPPC could help develop strategies to improve awareness and the Census counts. He highlighted the following ideas:

- Local government participation in the Local Update of Census Addresses – LUCA
- Establishing Complete Count Committees
- Establish trust

Mr. Rhatigan's office has been appointed the state level liaison for LUCA. Unfortunately, LUCA is unfunded. LUCA provides the opportunity for communities to ensure housing developments are included.

In a response to a question of how the homeless will be counted, Mr. Rhatigan said in the latter part of 2018 the Bureau's efforts will focus on group quarters including prisons, university housing, military installation, and assisted living centers. Following that, transitory locations or service-based enumeration will be reviewed. He reviewed the entire process for an individual to respond to the census.

Given the importance of the Census for New Mexico, Commissioner Straus asked what HPPC could do. Mr. Rhatigan said the next governor needs to be aware of the issues facing the Census. Funding for the LUCA program would be useful – although it may be too late – as would proper funding for the Complete Count Committees which the next governor would be instrumental convening. The Complete Count Committees should be convened by at the latest March 2019. He listed a number of groups and individuals that are working on the Census.

Chair Szczepanski said she would review whether there was additional money for FY19. She said the legislature wants to have a role in supporting the Census.

The Cabinet Secretary for Economic Development and Secretary of Finance Rodriguez were helpful in getting the governor to appoint Mr. Rhatigan the LUCA liaison. Regarding non-responsive agencies, DOH and HSD, Mr. Rhatigan said he and BBER reached out and advised that the bureau will compensate staff time. Chair Szczepanski said the HPPC may be helpful in that outreach effort to obtain data.

Mr. Rhatigan was invited to return and update the HPPC on the Census next year. He offered to forward a timeline regarding the Complete Count Committees and noted that January 2019 is a good time for the commission to convene.

Ms. O'Connor was asked to review whether an appropriation for the Census would be something BCC would do.

Mr. Rhatigan said he was available to make presentations regarding the Census to other groups.

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

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

Ms. Boies reported on the following items:

- The contract with First Choice in Edgewood has been signed, and the contracts with La Familia Medical Center and Pecos Valley Medical Center are in process; all include navigation services
- An RFP is being released for the evaluation of the Accountable Health Community project
- The RFP for IT software to support the Accountable Health Community is being drafted
- The Health Services Division web pages have been updated with clearer information on the HPPC, the Accountable Health Community, and a series of new links, including the Gap Analysis Report
- Santa Fe Community Foundation is adding senior indicators to the report card, including fall-related deaths and immunizations
- A mobile health van driver/assistant position has been posted, and the Health Services Division is looking for ways to expand the program
- There have been some discussions on the housing issue, and Santa Fe Community Foundation is exploring a multi-year grant for a housing coalition

Commissioner Coggins said the Foundation has approximately \$30,000 in discretionary funding for affordable housing planning. She said they hoped to work with other foundations and groups on this.

Ms. O'Connor reported that:

- An RFP was released for the behavioral health strategic plan

- The scope of work was released in September 2017 for a primary partner for the crisis center. Following a review process, the County has made a decision and negotiations are underway
- HSD and DOH collectively put out rules and regulations on crisis centers. The rules were onerous and limited to residential centers. Additional draft rules were released to accommodate the County for a non-residential crisis center, which staff is reviewing and which may provide a better reimbursement rate through Medicaid
- As part of the Health Tracks initiative, a navigator will be hired within Senior Services to work with the community's frail and elderly

**B. Other Matters from the Commission**

The Commission asked to be kept aware of health-related issues coming up during the session. Chair Szczepanski suggested that Health Action NM may be able to send updates.

Chair Szczepanski said there may be bills introduced that would create a pharmaceutical pricing commission and a cigarette tax. Ms. Boies added that the New Mexico Public Health Association Legislative Forum recommendations included the dental therapy bill, which the Commission has supported but may not be introduced this session, and the state appropriation for New Mexico Grown Fresh Fruits and Vegetables for School Meals, which both the HPPC and the BCC have supported. Chair Szczepanski mentioned that the Governor said she would support closing the loophole of the GRT exemption for non-profit hospitals – making non-profit hospitals pay the same tax as for-profits.

**IX. Future Agenda Items**

**A. Possible Agenda Items for Future Meetings**

Chair Szczepanski will not be able to attend the February meeting, and Commissioner Straus will chair the meeting.

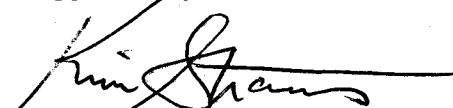
The February meeting will focus on behavioral health.

**X. Announcements - Next HPPC Regular Meeting – February 2, 2018**

**XI. Adjournment**

With no further business, Chair Szczepanski declared this meeting adjourned at approximately 10:45 a.m.

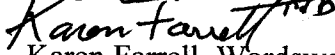
Approved by:



Reena Szczepanski, Chair  
Health Policy & Planning Commission



Respectfully submitted by:

  
Karen Farrell, Wordswork

COUNTY OF SANTA FE )  
STATE OF NEW MEXICO ) ss

HEALTH POLICY & PLAN M  
PAGES: 5

I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for  
Record On The 7TH Day Of February, 2018 at 03:55:54 PM  
And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 1849511  
Of The Records Of Santa Fe County

5

Santa Fe County  
HPPC: January 5, 2018

  
Deputy \_\_\_\_\_ Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office  
Geraldine Salazar  
County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM