

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

**October 3, 2014**

**Santa Fe, New Mexico**

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 County Community Services Department Conference Room, 2052 Galisteo Street, Suite B.

A quorum was achieved with the following members present:

**Members Present:**

Judith Williams, Chair  
John Abrams  
AnnaMaria Cardenalli  
Bonnie Keene  
Don Reece  
Carolyn Roberts  
Reena Szczepanski

**Member(s) Absent:**

Bryan Conkling  
Shirlee Davidson (excused)  
Vivian Heye (excused)  
Catherine Kinney (excused)

**Staff Present:**

Rachel O'Connor, Director, Community Services Department  
Patricia Boies, Health Services Division Director  
Katie Schwartz, RN, Mobile Health Van

**Others Present:**

Robin Hunn, Santa Fe Project Access  
Ed Moreno, Freelance Editor, *New Mexican*  
Tom Starke, Recovery Center and Chair of DWI Advisory Committee  
Andrew Black, Office of US Senator Heinrich  
Katherine Mortimore, City of Santa Fe  
Marsha Panagakos, Social Worker, CSV  
Jeff Thomas, Southwest Care Center. Executive Director  
Wenoah Veikley, Southwest Care Center, Chief Operating Officer  
Amy Sandoval, NM DOH  
Michael Weinberg, Thornburg Foundation  
Wendy Johnson, MD, La Familia Medical Center  
Maite Redondo-Cladera, FNP, CNM

### **III. Introductions**

Those present introduced themselves.

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

Upon motion by Commissioner Abrams and second by Commissioner Roberts the agenda was unanimously approved as published.

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

Commissioner Abrams moved for approval as presented. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Roberts and passed unanimously.

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

Tom Starke said since his retirement he has been working with DWI, substance abuse and behavioral health and through these contacts he has seen a large number of people in recovery in Santa Fe County. In fact, there are an estimated 10,000 individuals in recovery. September is Recovery Month and a Recovery Celebration was held at the Friendship Club to acknowledge the courage and dedication for their recovery and assistance to others. The event was well attended, the mayor came and there was food and an art sale. Celebrating success is an integral part of strengthening the community. Mr. Starke said the County's support is welcome.

A survey regarding recovery in Santa Fe County and how to improve upon it was filled out by 65 respondents and those results were forwarded to the County, stated Mr. Starke

### **VII. Presentations/Discussion**

#### **A. Southside Quality of Life Initiative**

Andrew Black, Office of U.S. Senator Heinrich, used a Power\_Point presentation and with a site map outlined the South Side area bounded by Airport Road, Jaguar Drive, 599 and Santa Fe Place Mall. It is densely populated with 20,000+ residents within 3.5 square miles, and one of the most densely populated areas in the state. 43 percent of Santa Fe's schoolchildren live in the area, the average age is 32, and is 77 percent Hispanic. The average income in the area is \$13,687 versus the remainder of the County which is \$25,454. The majority of the housing is mobile homes and apartment complexes.

Mr. Black said the area consists of three "food deserts." There are 19 locations to purchase alcohol and only one location for fresh fruits and vegetables. Mr. Black said, "that's a huge challenge" with that large population and no grocery store.

This area lies within Councilor Dominguez' district and has 10.59 acres of parks and recreation compared to District 1 that has 353 acres. He reviewed Santa Fe city policies and zoning for the area, which will restrict advertisement of alcohol, sale of miniatures and density of

alcohol outlets, along with mandates on architectural standards. He outlined projects in the area that include a large park, Zona del Sol Community Center, and transportation/walkability projects.

Mr. Black pointed out that Capital High School lacks a crosswalk, an omission he said is "mind blowing." The entire area has walkability and transportation challenges.

The model being implemented for the area's improvement is called "Empowerment Congress," originally started in the Compton/Crenshaw area of Los Angeles in 1991. The purpose of the Congress is to increase community involvement in decision making. Senator Bingaman's office initiated the Empowerment Congress in Doña Ana County in the Colonias, which has received over \$25 million in infrastructure grants, facilitating a countywide transportation plan.

The framework for the Empowerment Congress program starts with listening sessions. Ten have occurred in the Southside, with an average of 30 community members each. The idea is to identify issues, build trust and develop community leadership teams. The empowerment leads to collective impact.

Katherine Mortimore described a two-day fair the city held in the area starting with a kickoff session consisting of a series of panels (immigration, housing, economy/jobs, role of faith-communities, etc.) led by co-sponsors addressing quality of life issues in the Southside. Day Two was a community party that was well attended. She mentioned that 10 individuals signed up for health insurance at the event. She outlined the progress on the goals identified at the kickoff session.

Ms. Mortimore emphasized that the joint city/county Metropolitan Planning Organization has been able to bring resources to the table.

Mr. Black said the new veterans' clinic is opening near the Outlet Malls on Beckner Road. The new clinic will be game-changer in terms of services offered, quality of care and the amount of staff. CHRISTUS is opening a new clinic near the new Walmart. On a federal level, \$1 million in AmeriCorps funding was obtained, with \$191,000 going to Earth Care to increase access to healthy food in the area. He acknowledged the recent loss of the La Familia REACH grant.

Wendy Johnson said La Familia was trying to figure out how to keep the project REACH (Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health) going with other grants. REACH is a CDC funded project to address health disparities, especially around indicators for obesity and diabetes. Access to healthy foods, the environment and their impacts on physical activity are some of the focus areas..

Mr. Black pointed out the irony of losing the REACH funding while \$191,000 was granted for the Southside Farmers Market, which was partly a REACH initiative. He reviewed some possibilities for moving the Southside project forward: apply for a federal Promise Zone Grant, continue work on walkability projects, continue to seek USDA and CDC grants and address wage theft.

Ms. Mortimer said the city passed a resolution to advance the idea of a healthy food zone to be piloted on the Southside. While more work is necessary on the concept at this point the idea is to incentivize food vendors to provide healthy food around the schools. She said enforcement as well as definitions will be issues to work through.

Mr. Black thanked the HPPC for their contributions mentioning the mobile health van. As a native Santa Fean, he said everybody should have dignity and be able to raise their family and children as they like with the opportunity for food education, quality healthcare and access to healthy food.

Ms. Boies thanked Mr. Black for including the County's Community Services Department. She said the mobile health van regularly visits the Southside Farmers Market, Southside Library and Zona del Sol.

Mr. Black encouraged the participation of county and state elected officials. He distributed the Quality of Life Initiative Newsletter.

#### **B. Prenatal and Postnatal Care of Women Who Use Opiates**

Dr. Johnson said that before the county program the only services for opioid addicted pregnant women were in Albuquerque and one in Española. There are an estimated 50 to 100 addicted women giving birth at CHRISTUS annually. The program was started with the county provided funding. Ms. O'Connor said this funding came from some undesignated money and one of the top priorities from the *Health Action Plan* is reducing drug overdoses in Santa Fe County.

Dr. Johnson stated that the program started late last year providing the special training for FDA approval to prescribe Subutex. A nurse practitioner is not permitted to issue that drug. She said it was important to have a group of providers certified to prescribe ~~Suboxone~~ rather than having the responsibility fall on a small practice like La Familia. La Familia is a full-service primary care center not an addiction service treatment center.

The program began with care for pregnant women to provide prenatal care and Subutex. Pregnant women taking Subutex need special attention. The first baby in the program was delivered December 3, 2013. From December to July there have been 20 births, 54 women have been enrolled and 7 men. Men are included as the partners to the pregnant women because both partners need to stay clean. The program priority is pregnant women.

Only four women have dropped out of the program and six transferred or moved to other providers. Program participants are not released from the program even though Medicaid only pays for eight months. Addiction specialists differ in their views on how long an individual should be on Subutex. Dr. Johnson said the women in the program recognize it has changed their life. Subutex, given to pregnant women, is Suboxone without Naloxone which is the antidote for an opioid overdose. What's dangerous to the child during pregnancy is opioid withdrawal. The Subutex connects with the opioid receptor and doesn't create a high but satisfies

the craving/physical addiction dependency part. Once the mother has terminated breastfeeding she is given the Suboxone.

She said the program has been amazing and they are currently working with the Santa Fe Community Foundation, Christus, and Santa Fe County to develop a public awareness campaign which she anticipated would be out in the next few months. The campaign will educate the public on how dangerous all opioids are during pregnancy.

La Familia partners with New Vistas for the home visiting portion of the program. New Vistas' specialty is dealing with kids with developmental delays. New Vistas meets with the women during the last trimester of pregnancy at the clinic.

Maite Redondo-Cladera, Southwest Care Center/Birth Center, said the center provides a birthing option in Santa Fe. Their focus is comprehensive care and education with 24/7 access to the midwife/providers and the encouragement of collaborations. She said they do not screen for drugs. Their clients are low-risk pregnancies and healthy women. They educate about nutrition and exercise which decreases low birth weight, encourage breastfeeding as well as providing home visiting.

Currently there are 30 families enrolled and there have been six births at the center.

Marsha Panagakos said she has been a social worker on labor/delivery for over 16 years at CSV. In recent years there has been tremendous concern about the drug exposed babies. CSV is very supportive of the Subutex program and has a strong collaboration with La Familia. She noted that most of the Subutex mothers that deliver at CSV have been receiving prenatal care from La Familia, Santa Fe Community Guidance Center, Española or in Albuquerque. Any high risk mother receives screening and provider information.

Concern was raised about the limited period an individual can receive Subutex/Suboxone. The social issues that drive women to drug involvement – prescription or illicit – are still there and need to be addressed. Ms. Panagakos mentioned domestic violence, emotional abuse, economic stresses, etc. as the long-term issues that require monitoring. The community of Santa Fe has a broad range of services and the home visitation program that is offered to all new mothers was especially effective. CSV tries to determine the best resource for new families leaving the hospital.

Ms. Panagakos pointed out that many of the addicted mothers have poly substance abuse and CVS follows UNM's protocol – with newborns receiving a drug screening – and if drugs other than Subutex are detected a referral to CYFD is triggered. She outlined a number of programs offered by CSV in collaboration with other agencies/organizations and added they were all voluntary.

Referring to the drug issue in northern New Mexico, a response was suggested that it is a combination of oppression, poverty, historical trauma and opportunity on the illicit drug trade path.

Ms. O'Connor said that historically across the country the leading cause of unintentional death was motor vehicle crashes. In 2007 motor vehicle deaths declined and drug overdose

increased and overtook motor vehicle deaths. New Mexico is number two in the USA for drug overdose deaths with Santa Fe in the middle of New Mexico. Because the state level is so much higher than the national average, Santa Fe is also markedly higher than the national average. Driving the increase in deaths is prescription drug opiates. Adding the illicit use of benzodiazepines/poly substances increases the lethality, stated Commissioner Roberts.

Ms. Panagakos said there has been an increase in the utilization of the home visitation with all the families in Santa Fe. All of the providers are encouraged to engage with First Borns prenatally.

Commissioner Szczepanski encouraged increasing the number of providers who have the ability to prescribe Suboxone/Subutex.

Ms. Panagakos noted that births to addicted mothers is around 10 percent of all births at CSV and while it is not a large number it has greatly increased over the year. Dr. Johnson suggested the increase stems from women staying in Santa Fe rather than going other places for care during pregnancy.

Newborns coming off Subutex is much easier with a shorter hospital stay than those coming off of methadone or other drugs. CVS has a 96-hour period of observation for a Subutex baby and most of them have gone home and have not required further treatment in terms of withdrawal symptoms.

New Vistas engages with the mothers at La Familia during the third trimester and there may be a few interactions and a home visit before delivery. Postnatally, New Vistas has a home format through the FIT (Family Infant Toddler) program through the DOH with development follow-up.

In response to Ms. O'Connor's questions, Ms. Panagakos said CVS has seen a reduction in untreated addicted mothers. She said it's making a huge difference particularly in the length of stay for the newborn.

Dr. Johnson said data will be compiled at calendar year-end that will provide a comparison of 2013 and 2014 identifying number regarding infant abstinence syndrome, treated mothers versus the untreated mothers and infants' length of stay.

Ms. O'Connor said a portion of the funds that had been part of the indigent fund is being allocated to claims with other money for RFPs around the priority areas of the Health Action Plan. \$250,000 is earmarked for reducing low birth weight babies.

In terms of what the HPPC can do to advance the care for pregnant women using opiates, the following items were mentioned:

- Increase the number of Subutex providers
- Consider expanding the program to include nurse practitioners
- Explore how Medicaid can better support the Subutex patient by expanding the length of use and paying for case managers and other auxiliary services

- Consider the lifespan of the child living in the vulnerable social/economic environment of the family

It was mentioned that it is difficult to differentiate the long-term effects of drug exposure to those of living in poverty or in chaotic, unstable families. Poverty and depression need to be addressed.

Commissioner Keene pointed out that Subutex and Suboxone were the first treatment for withdrawal of drugs that Medicaid has ever paid for with managed care organizations. That is the reason it has been so difficult to regulate it. Suboxone is much more expensive than methadone. The managed care organizations were going to document the use of Suboxone to justify the payment with data showing the benefits of addressing addiction.

A societal change is needed to recognize addiction as a disease rather than laden with moral judgments that get in the way of treatment.

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

- A. Update on *Health Action Plan***
- B. Director' Report**

Ms. Boies said this will be a monthly agenda item for an HPP Commissioner or staff to provide an update on one of the six priorities.

#### **Increase Enrollment of Residents in Health Insurance**

- The County Community Services Department is applying for a grant from the NM Association of Counties for radio PSAs in Spanish

#### **Increase Consumption of Healthy Food**

- The joint City/County Food Policy Council has finalized the Food Plan for presentation on October 24<sup>th</sup>, Food Day, and is requesting approval from the governing bodies. The Food Plan includes information on growing food and educating people on food

#### **Reduce Drug Abuse**

- The recent Drug Take Back event held in collaboration with law enforcement agencies was successful
- This was the last one to occur in conjunction with the DEA

#### **Improve Mental Health – Reduce Suicides**

- A competitive RFP was issued for the mobile crisis team in the amount of \$350,000
- The RFP was limited to agencies that are Federally Qualified Mental Health Centers, and only Life Link and PMS met the requirement
- The county did not receive any responses
- county staff will meet to discuss the issues identified. The mobile health van held its second “mental health screening day” at the Community College – anxiety and depression screenings were offered

**C. Other Matters from the Commission**

Commissioner Roberts said she and Commissioner Heye visited with Dan Green at DOH's Epidemiology Department for information regarding youth drug use. They were provided with data from the YRRS (Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey) and the drug questions appeared to be apples and oranges. Middle school students were asked one question regarding use in the last 30 days with the remainder being asked "have you ever." The high school survey includes "have you ever" as well as specific use within 30 days.

Ms. Boies said YRRS will be presenting the findings of the past two year in October. Mr. Green will provide a presentation on findings Santa Fe students.

Chair Williams expressed dismay that La Familia did not receive the REACH grant. She believes the REACH program is highly relevant to Familia's patient population and encouraged the HPPC commissioners to speak to La Familia board members or the CEO about the issue. Chair Williams recommended drafting a letter to La Familia's CEO and Directors regarding HPPC's support of REACH.

**IX. Future Agenda Items**

- Staff to report on the County's Healthcare Assistance Program
- Update on the *Health Action Plan*
- Consider letter to La Familia regarding REACH
- CSV report on the community benefit funding recipients

Ms. Redondo-Cladera said greater clarity on what CSV is offering in their prenatal care program would be beneficial.

**XI. Announcements**

- A. Next HPPC meeting Friday, November 7, 2014, 9 a.m., 2052 Galisteo St.

**XII. Adjournment**

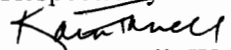
This meeting was declared adjourned at approximately 11:10 a.m.

Approved by:



Judith Williams, Chair  
Health Policy & Planning Commission

Respectfully submitted by:

  
Karen Farrell, Wordswork

Santa Fe County  
HPPC: October 3, 2014

COUNTY OF SANTA FE )  
STATE OF NEW MEXICO ) ss

HEALTH POLICY & PLAN M  
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I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for  
Record On The 14TH Day Of November, 2014 at 03:01:54 PM  
And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 1750811  
Of The Records Of Santa Fe County

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

