

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

November 4, 2016

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 9:05 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:**

Reena Szczepanski, Chair  
Carolyn Roberts  
Don Reece  
Kim Straus  
Anna Voltura  
Judith Williams

**Member(s) Absent:**

John Abrams  
Vivian Heye  
Bonnie Keene  
[Four Vacancies]

**County Staff Present:**

Rachel O'Connor, Director, Community Services Department  
Kyra Ochoa, Health Services Staff

**Others Present:**

Joe Martinez, Health Action Network  
Susan Lovett, Family Planning, NMDOH  
Wanicha Burapa, Family Planning, NMDOH  
Abby Reese, Perinatal Collaborative  
Desiree Valdez, NMDOH, Health Promotion  
Ben Thomson, Santa Fe Healthcare Network  
Ken Hendricks, Home Instead Senior Care  
Wendy Johnson, La Familia  
Tom Starke, SFBHA

III. **Introductions**

Those present introduced themselves.

REC'D CLERK RECORDED 12/14/2016

- IV. **Approval of Agenda**
- V. **Approval of Minutes**

These items were deferred due to the lack of a quorum.

VI. **Matters of Public Concern**

Desiree Valdez gave an update on the lack of Ob-Gyn services in Las Vegas. The San Miguel Health Council are waiting to meet in January when the new Health Council members will be in place. There are prenatal services but no delivery services. There are efforts to recruit a doctor but this will be costly. The Alumbra Clinic is working with St. Vincent Hospital but the link is tenuous.

A discussion ensued regarding the problems involved including no one on hand in case a C-section is needed and lack of adequate pediatric staffing. This is a problem in many rural areas throughout the state and country.

Kyra Ochoa noted she has been working on the accountable health community model through CMS with Santa Fe as a bridge organization in a pilot program to promote a regional approach. They are exploring options through HSD.

There was a suggestion to invite San Miguel Council members to an HPPC meeting or to have commissioners attend one of their meetings. Ms. Valdez indicated she would keep the commission apprised of developments.

Ben Thomson from the Santa Fe Healthcare Network said his organization was concerned with older adult falls. The Department of Health, Office of Injury Prevention is conducting trainings and classes in rural areas and assisted living centers. There is a coalition based in Albuquerque of 60 organizations, most of whom cater to the needs of seniors. He said he was interested in having a task force or trainers.

Community Services Director Rachel O'Connor stated the department oversees senior services and she would be interested in partnering.

VII. **Presentations**

A. **Dental Therapist Legislation in 2017 Legislative Session**

Joe Martinez distributed an information packet outlining the crisis in dental care and a New Mexico solution. He said the vulnerable populations were children, older adults, veterans and working adults. Dentists are retiring in great numbers. The rural sectors of the state are underserved.

He spoke about the dental therapist program that has been successful in Alaska for 11 years. They make use of portable equipment. Minnesota, Vermont and Maine also have programs. Mr. Martinez said Alaska's program could be modified to meet the needs of New Mexico. He advocated a 2 ½-year program supervised by dentists, taking place at community colleges. Santa Fe Community College is well placed to be a training ground, teaming up with Southwest Indian Polytechnic Institute.

In previous years the enabling legislation failed to get traction due to the failure of dentists to endorse it. However, consensus has now been reached by all parties involved. Mr. Martinez lauded the dental therapy program as a job-creator and a measure to alleviate the crisis in dental care. It has bipartisan support and there is very little needed in the way of start up costs. Liability insurance is available from the usual insurers of dentists. He indicated an endorsement from the HPPC and BCC would be welcome.

**VII. B. Reducing Teen Pregnancy in Santa Fe County: Long-Acting Reversible Contraceptives (LARC)**

Susan Lovett gave an outline of the Department of Health's steps taken to reduce teen pregnancy and increasing awareness of long acting reversible contraceptives. The DOH works to increase access to services, build infrastructure and provide safety net services. They partner with various groups and coalitions throughout the state. The federal Title X grant provides no-cost or low cost to those in need. There are 66 Title X clinics in 30 counties, including six in Santa Fe County. At this point 13 percent are choosing LARCs – IUDs or implants, which have proven to be very effective. A social media campaign was undertaken to increase awareness.

She spoke of the program in Colorado where \$27 million in private funds were used to bring down the teen pregnancy rate substantially.

Dr. Burapa reviewed the data that has emerged thus far. New Mexico's rate started higher than that of Colorado but has also declined. LARCs can be accessed by teens per federal and state law. The providers are family practitioners or mid-level providers and some are in the high schools. School nurses are becoming involved and word of mouth has been effective in spreading awareness.

Dr. Johnson noted teens generally don't make use of Title X since they generally are insured. Confidentiality is a major issue. Medicaid only recently has covered the cost. LARCs are expensive, between \$500 and \$600 and in 2015 La Familia had \$50,000 in unreimbursed fees for LARCs, so the change is welcome.

Abby Reese, a certified nurse/midwife working with the New Mexico Perinatal Collaborative, stated they were working in immediate post-partum contraception. Good policy is an important component as is clinical training. The attitude toward LARCs has changed substantially following the Dalkon shield. Immediate post-partum contraception is especially valuable for women who have trouble accessing medical care. With the latest changes they hope to pilot efforts to train personnel in all aspects, clinical and administrative. Their alliance with a reproductive justice organization, Young Women United, concentrates on culturally appropriate health service access and has garnered national attention. Project Echo at UNM has also been a partner in building a sustainable program.

Dr. Burapa pointed out that teens may also need immediate postpartum contraception. She added that Project Echo will be providing online technical support and continuing education. She spoke of a St. Louis study targeting the barriers and documenting that when they are aware of the facts women overwhelmingly choose LARCs. They are also partnering with the Department of Family and Community Medicine at UNM for evaluation, as well as participating

with the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials. This, along with Bixby, provides technical assistance in data collection and establishing best practices.

Commissioner Voltura asked if this practice was allowed at Christus. Dr. Johnson said she did not believe so, due to the fact that they're a Catholic hospital. La Familia cannot bring IUDs into the hospital. A discussion ensued regarding access issues, outpatient clinics and Ob-Gyns.

Dr. Burapa said it is often possible to get a LARC "on the spot" particularly at Title X clinics. Ms. Reese said by federal law prior authorization is not required. Dr. Johnson said generally speaking, women prefer to consider their options before settling on a birth control method.

Tom Starke noted it is 220 percent more likely that a child of a teenager will wind up in the criminal justice system, so reducing teen pregnancies will have major repercussions.

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

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

Ms. O'Connor stated they are moving forward on hiring a project manager, an IT consultant and a gap analysis consultant for the accountable health community. They are looking at funding sources.

The DWI program has had over one third of its funding cut by the state. This is being partially offset by newly imposed compliance monitoring fees, but there will be significant changes.

She added that planning for the crisis triage center is moving forward.

The One Door concept will be an agenda item at a future meeting.

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

None were presented.

### **IX. Possible Future Agenda Items**

- San Miguel and Mora Ob-Gyn issues
- Endorsement of dental therapy legislation
- One Door
- What procedures does Christus St. Vincent allow?
- Legislative update

### **X. Announcements**

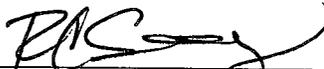
- A. Next HPPC meeting Friday, December 2, 2016, 9 a.m., Santa Fe Community Services, Santa Fe**
- B. Lecture on One Door at Women's Club on San Antonio's Haven for Hope, November 10<sup>th</sup>, 7:30**

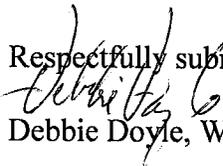
- C. Workshops at B. F. Young School on homelessness reduction, November 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>
- D. Legislative Health and Human Services Committee will be meeting November 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>
- E. The Public Health Association annual policy meeting will take place on December 9<sup>th</sup>

**XI. Adjournment**

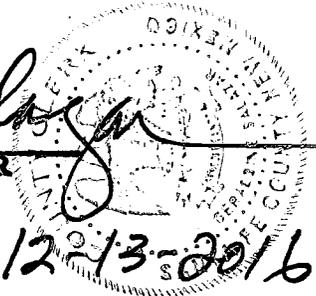
This meeting was declared adjourned at approximately 11:10 a.m.

Approved by:

  
 Reena Szczepanski, Chair  
 Health Policy & Planning Commission

Respectfully submitted by:  
  
 Debbie Doyle, Wordswork

SFC CLERK RECORDED 12/14/2016

ATTEST:  
  
 GERALDINE SALAZAR  
 COUNTY CLERK  
  
 12-13-2016



COUNTY OF SANTA FE ) HEALTH POLICY & PLAN M  
 STATE OF NEW MEXICO ) ss PAGES: 6

I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for Record On The 14TH Day Of December, 2016 at 02:39:55 PM And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 1812123 Of The Records Of Santa Fe County

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

# DRAFT

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL