

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

**January 11, 2024**

**Santa Fe, New Mexico**

1. A. This regular meeting of the Santa Fe County Health Policy & Planning Commission (HPPC) was called to order by Chair Laurie Glaze at approximately 10:00 a.m. on the above-cited date.

The meeting was held via Webex with everyone participating virtually.

B. The following members were present:

**Members Present:**

Laurie Glaze  
Nelsy Dominguez  
Steven Berkshire  
Jane Hajovsky  
Craig Schermerhorn  
Antoinette Villamil

**Member(s) Excused:**

Christa Coggins  
Sandy Dransfield

**County Staff Present:**

Rachel O'Connor, CSD Director  
Jennifer Romero, Health Services Division Director  
Alex Dominguez, Behavioral Health Admin. Program Manager  
Elizabeth Peterson, engage Admin. Program Manager

**Others Present:**

Kathleen Tunney, Community Health Manager, CSV  
Ramona Flores-Lopez, Behavioral Health Leadership Team  
Abby Bordner, United Way  
Christa Hernandez, Santa Fe City/CONNECT  
Julie Sanchez, Santa Fe City Youth & Family Services

**C. Introductions**

Commission members, guests and staff introduced themselves.

1. D. **Approval of Agenda**

SFC CLERK RECORDED 05/01/2024

Ms. Villamil moved to approve the agenda and Mr. Berkshire seconded. Upon voice vote the agenda was unanimously approved.

**E. Approval of Minutes: October 26, 2023**

Mr. Schermerhorn moved to approve the November minutes as published. Mr. Berkshire seconded and the minutes were unanimously approved.

**2. Legislative Agenda**

**A. Santa Fe County Resolution No. 2023-103**

**B. Meeting with Legislators**

Director of the Community Services Division Rachel O'Connor noted that for the first time, CSD requested their own legislative agenda in addition to that of the County as a whole, and a resolution was passed to that effect. They are requesting \$800,000 for navigation and flexible funding for the CONNECT program which in the past has been funded by the City and County with no state participation. Additionally, they are asking for \$400,000 for engage, previously known as the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion. The Department of Justice grant ended October 2023 and there is temporary funding through Behavioral Health Services Department that will end June 2024.

Director O'Connor explained the process whereby appropriation bills first go to the Finance Committee and then are rolled into House Bill 2. She requested the help of the commission members in educating the legislators on the priorities.

The third priority is support for a liquor excise tax which has been shown to be effective in improving overall health outcomes and in reducing DWIs. In addition, they are supporting reimbursement for CYFD services.

Director O'Connor stated the goal is to diversify funding sources and the potential for getting appropriations looks good. The maximum impact lies with the respective Finance Committees. The House Finance Committee is headed by Nathan Small and the Senate Finance Committee is chaired by George Muñoz. Nancy Rodriguez, a strong supporter of CSD's programs, is vice chair.

Additionally, the County has lobbyists – Jason Weeks and Al Park, who will be supporting the overall County priorities. They are also optimistic about prospects. Director O'Connor said she will send out the Finance Committee rosters and the fact sheets have already been sent out. She noted that the bill numbers are not as important and the substance of the request.

Chair Glaze said they will resend all of that information, and Mr. Berkshire suggested providing a half-sheet of talking points.

Mr. Schermerhorn noted the \$800,000 is a new request. He asked if this will reduce the City's contribution. Is there a savings for the local entities?

Director O'Connor anticipated that the City and County will continue to fund CONNECT as currently budgeted. She would like to use the new funds as flexible funds. "I would see it as in addition to rather than as supplanting."

Ms. Dominguez asked if this body would be willing to support the requests of the health councils, who are in dire need. Director O'Connor said they will support that bill in general, however it is not one of the priorities. Ms. Dominguez spoke for the health councils' request being made a priority and included in the lobbyists' mandate. Director O'Connor said the resolution has already been introduced and approved but there can be representation at the meetings from staff. Ms. Romero suggested we discuss what HPPC might want to support earlier in the year to be included in the Santa Fe County legislative priorities for the next session.

Ms. Dominguez moved that the Community Services Department support any legislative effort involving health councils. Mr. Berkshire seconded the motion carried without opposition.

Ms. Dominguez asked if the \$1.2 million was a one-time request. Director O'Connor said they want it to be recurring and rolled into the agency budget request for next year.

Ms. Dominguez moved that the HPPC support the stated legislative agenda and Chair Glaze seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Dominguez noted she is in Nancy Rodriguez' district and a list of bullet points would be helpful.

### **3. Health Action Plan**

Director O'Connor shared a presentation of the Health Action Plan's (HAP) highlights and priorities. The document is not yet complete, and she requested that it be finalized while Ms. Glaze is still the Chair. The HAP weaves together priorities across divisions in CSD. She reviewed the needs assessment, the gap analysis and strategic plans for the County, the behavioral health division, and senior services division. The HPPC has identified priorities and a leadership team analyzes issues. Additionally, documents such as the Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey and an internal data review, and current events are taken into account.

The previous HAP was a well used document. CSD continues to prioritize being a healthcare safety net for health services in conjunction with FQHCs, along with a growing emphasis on behavioral health, both substance and mental health issues. The last plan had healthy food and hunger as a priority and this will continue. Access to healthcare and enrollment in insurance will continue to be priorities. CONNECT is key to this.

Director O'Connor noted the world has changed in the last three or four years. The County strategic plan has a focus on social determinants of health with the role of climate change in that. The Senior Services' importance became evident during the pandemic. Youth behavioral health is in crisis in ways never seen before. A further area of priority will be diversification of funding. Evaluations will be used to analyze how programs can be made better and more efficient.

Director O'Connor broached the question: Who are we? She stated CSD is fundamentally the safety net both in crisis and on a day-to-day basis. During the pandemic \$8 million in requests were processed. La Sala has responded brilliantly to crisis situations involving violence, short-term housing, and psychiatric services.

Returning to the priorities, Director O'Connor spoke of social determinants to health, with the crucial component being CONNECT, which has grown exponentially. Safety net funding needs will be expanded and diversified with additional partners among FQHCs. Staff needs to look at new ways to support seniors and youth and ensure that Santa Fe County residents don't go hungry.

CSD doesn't have the resources to "move the needle" in terms of climate change but supports the Sustainability Division in their endeavors. Public health consequences of climate need to be examined. An example would be designating senior centers as cooling centers. A further example is CSD taking the lead in interfacing with the public on the PFAS situation.

CSD continues to address alcohol use in New Mexico by looking at alcohol-related deaths and reducing consumption. Director O'Connor noted that at the end of the Richardson administration New Mexico was 30<sup>th</sup> in the country in DWI involved motor vehicle fatalities; we are now third. The County funds both detox and treatment.

A further priority is reducing overdose deaths, particularly in view of the presence of fentanyl. Funds are provided for medically assisted treatment (MAT), harm reduction efforts, and public awareness campaigns. Detention reform is a new area of emphasis through a grant from the Bureau of Justice Affairs to plan a new wing at the jail for MAT and detox services. Funds from the opiate settlement will be used for this.

Director O'Connor spoke of the COOP program that does follow-ups on overdoses along with various harm reduction strategies. Narcan is now much more accessible than before, but as drugs evolve they become resistant to Narcan.

Behavioral health services across the board are a priority with efforts including a new Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) program to provide long-term support, navigation services through engage/law enforcement assisted diversion, and the Santa Fe Recovery Center, Building Bridges, and intensive case management. There are two new programs: Life Circle, which looks at support for seniors with behavioral health and cognitive issues; and a grant to provide employment support and training for the post-incarcerated.

The biggest area of growth in CSD is youth services, with an emphasis on supporting youth and their families in crisis. This need emerged through the Teen Court program. They now partner with Team Builders for more intensive needs. A youth mobile response and stabilization service is in the works in partnership with CYFD. Grant funding has been provided to Christus to youth in distress along with their families and a case management system is being developed. This is just one of many initiatives underway.

Director O'Connor spoke of immediate humanitarian response, an effort to be prepared for future emergencies, that would be done in coordination with the Office of Emergency Management and have procedures in place for things like cross-training. The HAP also looks at the legislative agenda, diversified funding, and whether the County should be a Medicaid biller.

Lastly, the evaluation process needs to be implemented and used for programming needs. Another aspect to be looked at is public awareness. La Sala's use was increased exponentially due to outreach in the community.

Director O'Connor indicated much of what is in CSD's strategic plan is also in the County's overall strategic plan, which is organized by Envisio software. Where the CSD's priorities have not been incorporated into the County's plan steps are being taken to put them into Envisio. Once HPPC approves the priorities, she will bring the HAP back for final approval.

Mr. Berkshire pointed out substance abuse correlates with other societal problems such as domestic violence and homelessness. He asked about combining these under one core issue. Director O'Connor stated there is a violence prevention unit, geared principally toward youth violence. Indicators are chosen by their ability to be tracked on the state or federal level to facilitate evaluation. There are in-house indicators they also use such as Narcan use and distribution, 911 calls, installation of ignition interlocks, and DWI arrests. Mr. Berkshire said he favors a holistic approach that incorporates interrelated phenomena.

Regarding homelessness, Director O'Connor said this is predominantly in the city and there are some programs in place. Through CONNECT the County provides some support in the form of short-term housing. engage looks at housing through intensive case management. The Community Development Department is the lead agency for housing at the County.

Ms. Dominguez asked if the County tracks SOGI (Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity) data. She noted the state is interested in tracking, however no resources have been devoted to the effort. Director O'Connor said anxiety and depression in youth center on sexual orientation and gender. Chanelle Delgado could provide more information. Ms. Romero said CONNECT tracks gender identity and options have been updated in recent years.

Ms. Villamil noted that the engage program only serves around ten people per year. She asked if this was due to a lack of funding. Director O'Connor explained engage gets referrals from law enforcement with the purpose of diversion from jail. The program is growing. The participants require extremely intensive case management and wraparound support and therefore has a small caseload. Ms. Peterson stated they have been receiving intakes for two years. There have been 45 referrals and 30 intakes. The current caseload is around 19 participants. In the future referrals may come directly from the DA's Office at which point they would bring the total to around 25. The program is countywide and includes five people from Edgewood.

Chair Glaze said she had worked with high utilizer programs in the past and the case load is around 19 hours per month per client so stabilization is intensive and expensive.

Ms. Peterson indicated they also collect data on family members; things cannot be achieved in a silo.

Ms. Dominguez commended the County for having these types of programs and for providing the range of services with a long-term view.

Mr. Berkshire asked if there was data on how many people lost Medicaid coverage post-pandemic. Ms. Romero explained that even prior to the pandemic the enrollment was low, although CONNECT screens participants and encourages enrollment. She offered to look into the numbers.

Ms. Hajovsky noted that CONNECT participants should also be asked if they have been able to access healthcare. Many physicians no longer take Medicaid. There is a severe lack of providers.

Director O'Connor agreed that insurance doesn't always mean access. The County, among others, is looking into the situation at La Familia, which could impact many people. They are looking at expanding the safety net by funding Presbyterian Medical Services. She stressed the potential for violence in the future given the number of stressors currently in place. She solicited feedback on where CSD is headed. She speculated that the Commission is likely to agree with the priorities in the Health Action Plan.

Mr. Berkshire moved to approve the HAP with the understanding that this is the portion that will go into Envisio, prior to the completion of the text. Ms. Hajovsky seconded and the motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Director O'Connor said she will miss Ms. Boies, particularly her editing skills.

#### **4. HPPC Interim Chair**

Chair Glaze stated her term and the term of Christa Coggins end January 31<sup>st</sup>. Director O'Connor said there several members have volunteered to take over the duties of Chair on an interim basis. Chair Glaze said she would help out in whatever capacity she can. Director O'Connor said she and Ms. Romero will be corresponding with the HPPC members, and the structure and potential new members will clarify the situation in the next three months. She suggested appointing a single point of contact until the next meeting and Chair Glaze will take that role rather than interim chair.

#### **5. Matters from Staff**

Ms. Romero said she is planning a yearly meeting schedule, subject to members' input. There was agreement to meet following the end of the legislative session. Chair noted they have been meeting on the second Thursday of each quarter which has worked in the past.

#### **6. Matters from the Commission**

Chair Glaze said it has been an honor serving as chair and she has appreciated the expertise, passion, and critical thinking of the HPPC Commissioners. Santa Fe County, under Director O'Connor's leadership, is a driver in the state in terms of groundbreaking work. She hopes to be part of it in the future.

7. **Adjournment**

This meeting was declared adjourned at approximately 11:52 a.m.

Approved by:



Steven Berkshire, Chair  
Health Policy & Planning Commission

Respectfully submitted by:



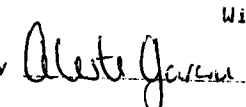
Debbie Doyle, Wordswork

SEC CLERK RECORDED 05/01/2024



COUNTY OF SANTA FE )  
STATE OF NEW MEXICO ) ss HEALTH POLICY & PLAN M  
PAGES: 7

I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for  
Record On The 1ST Day Of May, 2024 at 04:08:49 PM  
And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 2033006  
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Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office  
Katharine E. Clark  
Deputy  County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM