

MINUTES OF THE
SANTA FE COUNTY
HEALTH POLICY & PLANNING COMMISSION

February 7, 2025

Santa Fe, New Mexico

This regular meeting of the Santa Fe County Health Policy & Planning Commission (HPPC) was called to order by Chair Steven Berkshire at approximately 10:04 a.m. on the above-cited date at the Plaza Conference Room, 100 Catron Street, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

The meeting was held with a hybrid manner with both in-person and virtual participation.

The following members were present:

Members Present:

Steven Berkshire, Chair
Craig Schermerhorn [remotely]
Arthur Culpepper [remotely]
Maria Jose Rodriguez Cadiz [remotely]
Ronald Aldrich
Deborah Weiss

Member(s) Absent:

Jane Hajovsky
Mark Hayden

County Staff Present:

Jennifer Romero, Deputy Community Services Director
Coy Maienza, Health Services Manager

Others Present:

Shelley Mann-Lev, Healthy Climate New Mexico [remotely]
Jeremy Espinoza, DOH Epidemiologist
Kyaolin Rajbhandary, DOH, Public Health Division
Carolyn Manzanares, DOH Public Health Division
Stephanie Moraga-Hailey, HCNM
Rosy Hudson, DOH
Katherine Field, New Mexico Solutions [remotely]
Kari Jones, UNM [remotely]
Kristin Graziano, HCNM [remotely]
Kathleen Tunney, CSV [remotely]
Jasmine Meyer, Presbyterian [remotely]
Nate Matthews-Trigg, HCNM [remotely]
Sarah Boses [remotely]

SEC CLERK RECORDED 05/30/2025

Introductions

Those present introduced themselves.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Aldrich moved to approve and Ms. Weiss seconded. The motion to approve the agenda passed without opposition.

Approval of Minutes

November 12, 2025: Mr. Aldrich moved approval. Ms. Weiss seconded and the motion to approve the November minutes passed without opposition.

Healthy Climate New Mexico

Shelly Mann-Lev, Executive Director of Healthy Climate New Mexico (HCNM), noted there are two proposals before the legislature supporting climate issues vis-à-vis health. Santa Fe's Health Council is one of the two in the state to recognize the issue. She introduced other members of her organization that were present. She asked that those present weigh in with how climate events have affected their lives and numerous examples were provided of heat waves, floods, hurricanes, fires, etc. It was noted generally that in the past, Santa Fe homes were not fitted with air conditioning which has now become necessary.

Ms. Mann-Lev said there are no "climate havens." She added we are living in uncertain times. Air quality is considered "hyper-local."

Mr. Matthews-Trigg listed the populations most at risk: the poor, the disabled, those who work outdoors, the homeless, those with substance use disorders, children and the elderly. Risk is often under-estimated.

Ms. Mann-Lev did a straw poll on the familiarity with climate/health issues among those present. She recommended advocating for HB-108 and HB-109. HB-108 would create a state public health and climate program in the Department of Health with six FTEs instead of the current 0.2 FTE. This would help local programs. HB-109 has to do with funding for resilience in the face of climate events. It would start at \$12 million for municipalities, tribes, and other entities. In addition, there are bills aimed at reducing pollution.

Ms. Mann-Lev shared her screen showing Priority #5 from the County's Health Action Plan. Chair Berkshire stated the revision to the Action Plan was undertaken by subcommittees after the pandemic. Climate was a major discussion item. He and Ms. Hajovsky are the only members still on the HPPC.

Ms. Romero noted that the County is preparing for measures to be taken in the case of unprecedented heat waves, in addition to warming centers available during Code Blue, especially for vulnerable populations. Disaster preparedness is also a consideration.

Mr. Aldrich said Anchorum Foundation is working with Homewise in providing critical housing.

Mr. Culpepper said displacement becomes an issue with disasters, as was seen in the recent LA fires.

Ms. Mann-Lev said she is hoping that HCNM can contract with the County to work with HPPC to formulate a pro-active plan that could be accomplished by the end of this fiscal year. Albuquerque's response last year was completely inadequate. "How can we support you best with our expertise in implementing a plan and accomplishing your goals?"

Ms. Weiss indicated the HPPC needs more information on what is needed. This will be more productive in coming up with a plan. Chair Berkshire said they could form another committee or task force to ultimately make recommendations to the County Commission. Ms. Romero said they would have to go through a County process to perhaps have a small working group to flesh out Priority #5.

Mr. Aldrich recommended advocacy to keep the issue front and center on the state agenda.

Kristin Graziano commended the committee, noting there is not enough knowledge about the health impacts of climate change. Bringing in medical professionals is very helpful. In looking through the Health Action Plan, all of the other priority areas, including behavioral health, intersect with climate change. It's important to think globally.

Ms. Romero stated a workshop might be a good first step, and then a smaller task force to move things forward. Chair Berkshire suggested having work sessions between the meetings. She asked Ms. Mann-Lev to provide dates she would be available for a workshop. The Health Action Plan is a five-year plan that meshes with the County's strategic plan, including alignment with the Office of Emergency Management that is currently engaged in a response plan.

Ms. Mann-Lev recommended a two- to three-hour interactive workshop focused on Santa Fe County.

CONNECT

Ms. Romero shared a power point noting it is important the new members become acquainted with CONNECT since it aligns with many of the priorities of the Health Action Plan. CONNECT is an accountable health community model based on material from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid. The County applied for a grant and did not receive it but there was an untapped pool of \$3 million. A decision was made to use those funds for prevention using the accountable health community model. The emphasis was facilitation of health appointments by removing barriers. CONNECT started with eight organizations, and 13 navigators who use a

hands-on approach helping people through systems that can be frustrating. The vision is to ensure all residents have access to high quality healthcare regardless of their income.

Ms. Romero stated in 2013 CONNECT joined with the Unite Us platform which allows referrals in real time with feedback and notes. Screening is done for social indicators of health and this information is available to the navigators. It became a City-County partnership shortly before the pandemic. Approximately \$8.4 million was dispersed in COVID relief funds.

There are now approximately 250 navigators across 80 programs, all of which are vetted. The three County navigators and one City navigator respond to self-assistance requests and support the wider network. County and City staff also support the effort. Some of the many programs take Medicare or Medicaid.

CONNECT uses an open door approach and self-referrals can be made online. Since 2021 United Way serves as the call center at 211, and CONNECT is working to expand those services with more personnel and time.

Ms. Romero said CONNECT endeavors to use the multiple organizations to leverage resources. The screening tool feedback in Unite Us helps ensure that people get the services they need.

Mr. Aldrich pointed out that signs for CONNECT are in patient rooms at Christus St. Vincent. He suggested including Villa Therese Catholic Clinic in their organization. Ms. Romero said they have spoken to them recently.

Mr. Culpepper asked for a copy of the presentation. Ms. Rodriguez Cadiz said CONNECT has been helpful in making Solace aware of services and resources.

Ms. Romero noted CONNECT navigators get together virtually once a month where new services are introduced and relationships established. Ms. Weiss asked if it would be possible for HPPC members to attend, and Ms. Romero said she will send the link.

Chair Berkshire said CONNECT has received national recognition. Ms. Romero said the National Association of Counties recognized them.

Matters from the Commission

Ms. Weiss asked how the new administration would affect the matters of concern to this group. She said so many of their programs are vulnerable and under attack.

Ms. Romero said this community is resilient and she hoped they would get through this together. The goal is still to support all the vulnerable populations.

Mr. Aldrich mentioned that as a sanctuary city they could be targeted.

Ms. Rodriguez Cadiz asked what proportion of these programs' funding comes from the federal government. She speculated that prevention efforts might be less vulnerable. Ms. Romero said she did not have that information on funding currently.

Matters from Staff

Ms. Romero thanked the committee members for their help in completing deliverables and an invoice will be sent to the Department of Health. She will send out a checklist of what still needs to be done.

Public Comment

Chair Berkshire stated he and Mr. Hayden have reports from meetings they have attended, including the Behavioral Health Leadership Council and the SIM Mapping Conference that he will send out. He reiterated that they need to formalize having other meetings and work sessions.

Next meeting: May 2, 2025

Adjournment

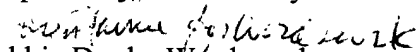
This meeting was declared adjourned at approximately 11:15 a.m.

Approved by:



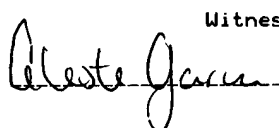
Steven Berkshire Chair
Health Policy & Planning Commission

Respectfully submitted by:


Debbie Doyle, Wordswork

COUNTY OF SANTA FE)
STATE OF NEW MEXICO) ss
HEALTH POLICY & PLAN M
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[Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for
Record On The 30TH Day Of May, 2025 at 03:32:02 PM
And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 2060025
Of The Records Of Santa Fe County

Deputy  County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM
Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office
Katharine E. Clark

