MINUTES OF THE

SANTA FE COUNTY

HEALTH POLICY & PLANNING COMMISSION

October 2, 2026

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 10:00 a.m. on the above-cited date at the Plaza Conference Room, 240 Grant Ave., Santa Fe, New Mexico.

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

The following members were present:

Members Present:
Steven Berkshire, Chair
Deborah Weiss
Ronald Aldrich
Arthur Culpepper
Sun Vega
Michael Spanier, Vice Chair
Laura Elliman

Member(s) Absent:
Maria Jose Rodriguez Cadiz (Excused)

County Staff Present:
Jennifer Romero, Community Services Deputy Director
Coy Maienza, Health Services Division Manager
Rodney DeHerrera, Health Care Assistant Administrative Assistant

Community Members Present:
Korina Lopez, La Familia, Healthcare for the Homeless
Valeria Alarcon, Executive Director at New Mexico Alliance of Health Councils NMAHC
Christa Hernandez, City of Santa Fe
Brandon Estrada, PEAK Behavioral Health
Kathleen Tunney, Christus St. Vincent
Valentina White, DOH
Dr. Christopher Novak, DOH
Maya Fern, Santa Fe YouthWorks

Introduction
Those present introduced themselves.

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Approval of Agenda
Mr. Aldrich moved to approve, seconded by Ms. Weiss.

Approval of Minutes

August 7, 2026: Mr. Aldrich moved to approve, Mr. Spanier seconded. Motion to approve passed with the notation of Vice Chair Spanier's name was misspelled..

Matters from the Commission

- Standards and Protocols discussion

    - Committee members began by discussing the issues with working groups and task forces and whether they need to announce these meetings in advance or not.
    - Coy clarified, according to the legal team, that these do qualify as HPPC functions and fall under the Open Meetings Act and do need advance notice to take place.
    - Members went into detail on the rules of quorum. Chair Berkshire explained that 50% plus 1 of members constitutes a quorum.
    - What constitutes a majority vote during a quorum is also discussed in detail.
    - Jennifer confirms for the group that according to the legal team, if you have a quorum and are voting, the members present are the majority.
    - Members then discussed conflict of interest during the voting process and what should be done in the event of such an occurrence.
    - Announcement of meetings, proper protocol, quorum, and conflict of interest during votes is discussed in great detail.
    - Procedure can be found in the HPPC Operating Standards and Procedures draft under Section 3.

    - **Membership Standards**

        - Discussions on clarification of council membership is also discussed. (HPPC Operating Standards and Procedures draft, section 2.)
        - Ms. Elliman wished to add clarifying verbiage to be added to the subsections, so that new members are clear on what is expected of Commission members.

Public Comment

- Valeria Alarcon ED at NMAHC spoke about advocacy updates.
    - NMAHC was invited to present at Legislative Health and Human Services, the third week of October in Rio Rancho. Date and time to be announced.
    - Had a meeting with Representative Lujan, Representative Thompson a couple of weeks ago. They have confirmed that they will file a funding bill for health councils starting the first week of the legislative session in 2027. Same level of incremental funding has already been agreed too, $8 million.

- Ms. Alarcon has been meeting, since last year, with candidates who have, you know, announced their candidacy for governor or lieutenant governor of New Mexico.
- Her objective has been to educate these candidates about the impactful and meaningful work of health councils.
- Going to be hosting the last, quarterly 2026 CCF convening on November 5th.

Matters from Staff

- Chairman Berkshire brought the Re-Entry Fair, happening Oct. 10 at the Courthouse on Montezuma, to the attention of the members and to all who were present.
- The Housing committee is looking into having a warrant court kiosk. This could be placed at Agape House so that community members have access to online hearings.
- Chairman Berkshire asked for a volunteer to represent the HPPC on the Behavioral Health Commission.
- Community health improvement plan is looking at Connect and the social determinants of health and how that has been impacting the community. We have a couple of other work plans.
- One is harm reduction. Worked with New Mexico Solutions to really help get naloxone out to the community, as well as providing education, not just on naloxone, but on overdose prevention, and safety.
- Youth and Family Services is working on a stigma campaign.
- Department of Health mobile unit will be one of the attendees that will be at the reentry fair. They are able to provide things like STI screening, vaccinations, and general health.
- Re-entry fair is on October 10th at outside of First Judicial District Court, which is 225 Montezuma.

Next Meeting & Adjourn

Meeting called for adjournment by Chair Steven Berkshire at 11:30 pm. Mr. Spanier moved for adjournment, seconded by Ms. Vega.

Next HPPC meeting December 4, 2026

Respectfully submitted by:
Rodney DeHerrera, Santa Fe County

Approved by:

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Steven Berkshire, HPPC Chair Date

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