

SANTA FE COUNTY
RESOLUTION NO. 2014- 64

A RESOLUTION FROM SANTA FE COUNTY
TO SUPPORT SAFE NURSE STAFFING LEVELS IN THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM
AT THE FEDERAL, STATE, LOCAL GOVERNMENT, AND PRIVATE LEVELS

WHEREAS, there is a strong relationship between adequate nurse-to-patient ratios and positive patient outcomes within hospitals;

WHEREAS, rising patient acuity and shortened hospital stays have contributed to diminished quality of health care;

WHEREAS, finding an optimal nurse-to-patient ratio within hospitals has been a national and state challenge;

WHEREAS, according to the American Nurses Association, ensuring adequate registered nurse staffing levels within each unit of a hospital has been shown to:

- Reduce medical and medication errors;
- Decrease the frequency and severity of patient complications;
- Decrease mortality;
- Improve patient satisfaction;
- Reduce nurse fatigue;
- Decrease nurse burnout;
- Improve nurse retention and job satisfaction;

WHEREAS, health care leaders have an opportunity to create innovative strategies to improve patient outcomes through development of optimal staffing patterns for hospitals, thereby creating a safer environment for patients and nurses;

WHEREAS, staffing solutions require leadership, support, and recognition to assure an appropriate number and skill mix of staff, including registered nurses, who are able to deliver safe quality patient care;

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WHEREAS, optimal staffing within a hospital is essential in order to provide optimal patient care;

WHEREAS, innovative and collaborative strategies that focus on developing long-term solutions will improve the quality of patient care outcomes;

WHEREAS, in 2012 the New Mexico Legislature, through House Memorial 51, charged named stakeholder groups to recommend staffing standards to the legislature and tasked the Department of Health to collect information about the hospitals that adopt standards and to report the cost of implementing an oversight program;

WHEREAS, at a minimum Connecticut, Illinois, Nevada, Ohio, Oregon, Texas and Washington require hospitals to have staffing committees responsible for plans and staffing policy; and

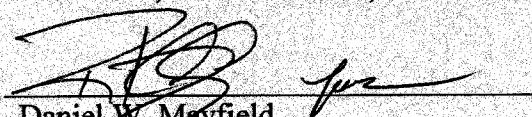
WHEREAS, at least thirteen states currently address nurse staffing levels in hospitals through state law and/or regulation, including California, Connecticut, Illinois, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Rhode Island, Texas, Vermont and Washington.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Santa Fe Board of County Commissioners:

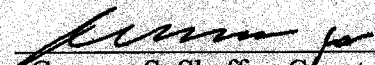
1. Supports bipartisan efforts in Congress and specifically by our Congressional members, to pass H.R.1821, the Registered Nurse Safe Staffing Act of 2013;
2. Encourages our New Mexico State Legislature to develop a state standard for quality of care through prescribed minimum nurse staffing levels, and in particular through minimum registered nurse staffing levels;
3. Recognizes that health care leaders have an opportunity to collaborate to create innovative strategies to develop solutions to quality of care issues resulting from current staffing patterns, in order to ensure a safer environment for patients and nurses; and
4. Requests that hospitals in the area consider implementing a hospital wide staffing plan developed by a nurse staffing committee (that includes nurses, nurse managers, and other managers) to address the unique characteristics of the patients and hospital units that result in the delivery of safe, quality patient care.

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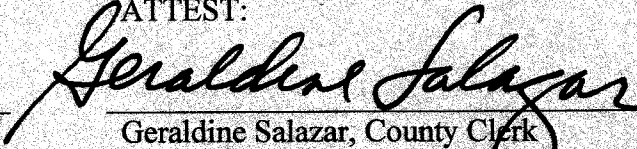
PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED ON THIS 29th DAY OF JULY, 2014

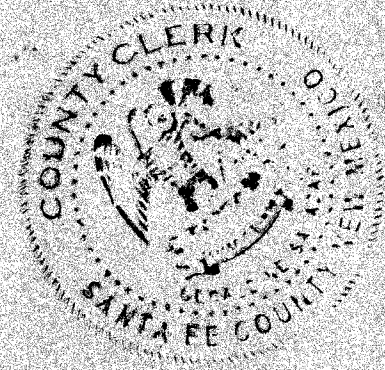

Daniel W. Mayfield,
Chair, District 1

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


Gregory S. Shaffer, County Attorney

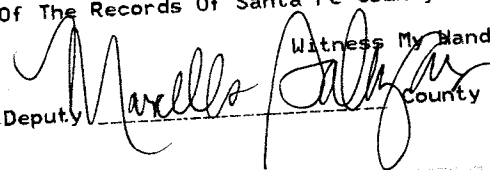
ATTEST:


Geraldine Salazar, County Clerk
7-29-2014



REC. CLERK RECORDED 07/30/2014



COUNTY OF SANTA FE) BCC RESOLUTIONS
STATE OF NEW MEXICO) ss PAGES: 3
I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for
Record On The 30TH Day Of July, 2014 at 11:17:03 AM
And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 1742422
Of The Records Of Santa Fe County
Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office
Geraldine Salazar
Deputy  County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM