
SANTA FE COUNTY



ACCOUNTABLE HEALTH COMMUNITY

We are building a system that helps residents navigate community services and offers providers access to data and information to better serve residents, improve health and reduce health care costs.



The Accountable Health Community is in the news!

Friday, August 11th, the Albuquerque Journal North published an article about the Accountable Health Community (AHC) illustrating the collaboration between two AHC community partners, La Familia Medical Center and Las Cumbres Community Services. Learn how their partnership made a difference for one woman and her children.

Excerpt from Albuquerque Journal North:

SANTA FE, N.M. — Sabrina Esquibel, four months pregnant, appeared calm for her prenatal appointment recently at La Familia Health Clinic on Alto Street.

That's despite gently directing her son, 4-year-old Xavier, on how to push the stroller carrying his 18-month-old sister, Milaya, who wanted to walk more than ride, and managing a large diaper bag, Xavier's backpack and her own purse.

She had help.

A ¡Que Cute! Healthy Baby program "navigator" Ana Morelos was beside her, watching busy Milaya and a smiling Xavier while Esquibel dealt with all the preliminaries of a medical appointment. Morelos would be going into the medical appointment with Esquibel, as well.

Morelos' work entails assisting moms identified as at high risk for giving birth to low birth weight babies to find the assistance they need from various medical and social help networks. Going it alone can cause stress, and stress in pregnancy is one of the risk factors for low birth weight babies.

The structure of Las Cumbres Community Services' ¡Que Cute! "navigation" program has served as a model for a much broader initiative launched recently in Santa Fe County, organizers say.

The new effort, funded by county government, will provide human navigators offering hands-on help for indigent or under-insured people with persistent and expensive health care problems, directing them toward assistance in such areas as housing, food, transportation, pregnancy-related care and behavioral health care.

The navigator role is intended to prevent ineffectual efforts, or those that don't last due to stilted, "siloes" delivery, said Kyra Ochoa, Health Care Assistance manager with the county's Health Services Division.

"A lot of work has been piecemeal. This will align providers and create agreements on how we can do it together," said Ochoa.

For example, an indigent person sick enough to end up in the emergency room several times a year may also be homeless and hungry. A navigator would help recognize all the issues that may be contributing to a long-term, and expensively treated, illness.

The three-year, \$3.3 million program – dubbed Accountable Health Community, or AHC – includes \$360,000 worth of contracts with seven community organizations.

The contracts will pay for a total of six navigators and one clinical social worker. They are expected to reach 270 clients. The participating organizations are: the Santa Fe Public Schools Teen Parent Program; the school district's Adelante Program (for families facing homelessness); the Santa Fe Fire Department Mobile Integrated Health Office (MIHO) program; St. Elizabeth's Shelter; the Interfaith Shelter (Pete's Place); The Life Link; and the United Way of Santa Fe County.

To read the entire article visit <https://www.abqjournal.com/1046388/county-program-aims-to-bring-pieces-together.html/em080217c>.

In the Studio, a KSFR radio show, featured Kyra Ochoa of the Santa Fe County Community Services Department, Gaile Herling, Coordinator of the Santa Fe Public School's Adelante program for families facing homelessness and Andres Mercado of the Mobile Integrated Health Office (MIHO) for the City of Santa Fe Fire Department on August 22nd. The Adelante and MIHO programs are two community partner organizations providing navigation services as part of the AHC network.

The panel offered glimpses into the challenges that individuals, children and families face who don't have safe and consistent housing, reliable transportation for school or medical appointments, utilities for warmth or to refrigerate food and medicine, or supportive networks of family and friends to help navigate the health and social service system. The Accountable Health Community addresses these unmet needs by building a collaborative network that integrates health care and social services for county residents, recognizing that health is more than access to health care alone.

To listen to the entire interview visit: <http://ksfr.org/post/studio-santa-fe-county-accountable-health-community-initiative> .

For more information on the development of the Accountable Health Community please contact:

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