

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF SANTA FE COUNTY

RESOLUTION NO. 2020 - 50

Introduced by:  
Commissioner Anna Hansen and Commissioner Ed Moreno

---

A RESOLUTION  
RECOGNIZING THE COUNTY'S EFFORTS TO REDUCE DISPARITIES  
IN HEALTH CARE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

---

**WHEREAS**, the established goals of Santa Fe County ("County") are to provide a safe community, promote a sustainable community, support a healthy community, and be a proficient, transparent, and accountable government; and

**WHEREAS**, the County is committed to supporting and protecting our diverse racial and ethnic population and reducing the disparities that exist in our community in accessing and utilizing health care services; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners and the Health Policy and Planning Commission have long recognized that overarching factors affecting all aspects of health in the County include income, immigration status, and race and ethnicity [*Santa Fe County Health Action Plan; Santa Fe County Community Services Department Health Services Gap Analysis pages 14-24 and elsewhere*]; and

**WHEREAS**, for many years, the County's Health Care Assistance Program has served lower-income County residents who are at high risk and have high need for health care services, regardless of immigration status; and

**WHEREAS**, the County recognizes that the social determinants of health, including housing, transportation, health care, food access, employment, education, and personal safety, have a significant impact on the health and safety of individuals and the community; and

**WHEREAS**, in order to address the social determinants of health, the County, along with the City of Santa Fe, has implemented an accountable health community, "CONNECT," partnering with and funding over 66 programs at 37 community organizations and within County and City departments; and

**WHEREAS**, since April 2019, CONNECT has served 1,222 County residents, navigating them to the resources they need, with the demographics of residents served being 40 African American residents (3%), 81 Native American residents (7%), and 789 White residents (65%), including 572 Hispanic residents (47%), and residents of other or undisclosed races (25%); and

**WHEREAS**, the demographics of CONNECT clients roughly reflect the demographics of the County as a whole (African American 1.2%, Native American 4.2%, White, non-Hispanic, 43%, Hispanic 51.1%, and Asian, Hawaiian/Pacific Island, and two or more races 4%) [<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/santafecountynewmexico/PST045219> ]; and

**WHEREAS**, the priority of the Community Services Department, as a whole, is to serve County residents who are at high risk or have high need based upon their demographic characteristics and behavioral health factors, and, accordingly, the Community Services Department has developed programs that recognize the intersection between public health and public safety; and

**WHEREAS**, the County currently funds a Teen Court program, which serves as an alternative to adjudication, and early intervention services to teens at high risk of encountering law enforcement; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2014, the County Community Services Department funded the creation and operation of a Mobile Crisis Response Team designed to work with law enforcement in public safety situations that involve individuals with behavioral health issues; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners and the community have provided funding for the building and operation of a Behavioral Health Crisis Center in the County that will be opening in the Fall of 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, the Santa Fe County Community Services Department provided startup and operational funds for a re-entry team at the Santa Fe County Detention Center.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of County Commissioners of Santa Fe County hereby recognizes the County's efforts to reduce disparities in Health Care and Public Safety and requests that County staff, utilizing resources budgeted for those purposes, continue and explore ways to further develop County programs and services, for the benefit of all our County residents, in the following ways:

1. Continue, through the CONNECT program, to provide services to vulnerable populations, thus reducing the disparities that exist in accessing and utilizing quality health care services in our community.
2. Provide funding to Federally Qualified Healthcare Centers to serve low income, immigrant, and vulnerable populations in the County.
3. Explore a partnership, through the County Teen Court program, with law enforcement to provide training to youth on law enforcement interactions.
4. Continue to provide behavioral health support to youth and their families in an effort to build resiliency factors and reduce negative outcomes in our community.

5. Continue with the implementation of a Behavioral Health Crisis Center to support individuals with behavioral health issues and to reduce the burden on law enforcement through the development of a dedicated entry and assessment process.
6. Explore with law enforcement the utilization of the Mobile Crisis Team in situations that involve individuals with behavioral health issues.
7. Continue to prioritize, through the County's strategic plan, the development of a Youth Services Division to support early intervention services to assist high risk youth in addressing behavioral and other issues.

**PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED ON THIS 30<sup>th</sup> DAY OF JUNE, 2020.**

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF SANTA FE COUNTY**

By: *H P R*  
Henry P. Roybal, Chair



SFC CLERK RECORDED 07/10/2020

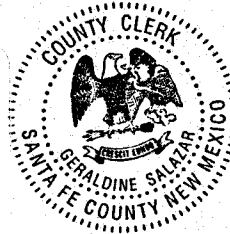
**ATTEST:**

*Geraldine Salazar*  
Geraldine Salazar  
Santa Fe County Clerk

Date: *July 8, 2020*

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

*Cristella Valdez* for  
Gregory S. Shaffer  
Santa Fe County Attorney



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 10TH Day Of July, 2020 at 04:18:51 PM  
And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # **1921608**  
Of The Records Of Santa Fe County

Deputy *Estrella Martinez* Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office  
Geraldine Salazar  
County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM