

MINUTES OF THE
STATE OF NEW MEXICO
HEALTH POLICY COMMISSION
MEETING
April 8, 2005

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Andy Lopez called a regular meeting of the State of New Mexico Health Policy Commission (HPC) to order on Friday, April 8, 2005, at approximately 9:13 a.m. at the Sunland Park Business Center/Casino, Sunland Park, New Mexico.

Chair Lopez welcomed everybody to Sunland Park and thanked Commissioner Roman for her invitation. Commissioner Roman welcomed everyone.

Members Present

Andy R. Lopez
Waldo Anton
Dr. Frank Hesse
Seferino Montano
Moises Morales
Dr. Miles Nelson
Alicia Roman

Members Absent

Gloria Nieto (*excused*)

Welcome and Introductions

Staff members Dr. Patricio Larragoite and Cindra Stahl were present at the meeting.

Guests in attendance were Dan Reyna, Director, Office of Border Health; Thomas Ruiz, Environmental Epidemiologist; Colleen Runyan, RN, from Gadsden High School and Patricia Cubilette, RN, from Santa Teresa High School.

Chair Lopez called for a moment of silence in memory of Pope John Paul II.

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Morales moved for approval of the agenda. Commissioner Roman seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous voice vote.

Approval of Minutes from March 11, 2005 Meeting

Chair Lopez moved for approval of the March meeting minutes as written. Commissioner Morales seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous voice vote.

GUEST PRESENTATION

Office of Border Health, Department of Health

Dr. Larragoite introduced Dan Reyna, Director, Office of Border Health, and Thomas Ruiz, Environmental Epidemiologist, to discuss border health issues for the State of New Mexico.

Mr. Reyna thanked the Commission for the time to present and provided the Commissioners with a packet including a summary review of the Office of Border Health (OBH) with references to both the OBH and the Border Health Council (BHC). The OBH is a component office of the Department of Health (DOH); it began operations in 1993 in Las Cruces, New Mexico. The OBH has established an affiliation with New Mexico State University (NMSU) College of Health and Social Services through a contract between DOH and NMSU.

Mr. Reyna reported that OBH's mission is to improve the health status and health services in the New Mexico border region and other border-impacted areas of the state. He explained that the border area is considered to be 100 kilometers (62 miles) north and south of the actual borderline.

Mr. Reyna reported that the BHC was organized in 1990 to help address the health issues created by rapid population growth and economic development in the New Mexico border region. He added that the mission of BHC is to improve the health status of the New Mexico border population through advocacy, community education, and resource development.

Mr. Reyna stated that a popular DOH publication, also provided to the Commission, was recently inserted in newspapers throughout the entire border region. The issue celebrated National Public Health Week and provided information on events during National Immunization Week in April. The newspaper insert also included border health information, border and statewide activities, as well as articles written by DOH and New Mexico Immunization Coalition staff.

Mr. Reyna explained that the logo for the Immunize our Kids campaign was created in 1990 and continues to represent the immunization campaign. In 2003, New Mexico became the only state on the border that adopted this logo to promote immunization throughout the state. He added that the poster included in the packet was for the celebration of Immunization Week and that New Mexico and Louisiana are the only states recognized for increasing immunization rates.

Mr. Reyna reported that if the U.S. border were its own state, it would rank last in access to health care; second in death rates due to hepatitis; third in deaths related to diabetes; last in per capita income; and first in the percentage of uninsured. He added that there are six New Mexico counties in the border region: Doña Ana, Grant, Hidalgo, Luna, Otero, and Sierra.

Mr. Reyna stated that a Bi-National Border Health Information System was initiated identifying New Mexico's border as the Paso Del Norte Region. The Paso Del Norte Region has a population of 2.1 million, with 4 million legal (documented) northbound border crossings per month, or 133,400 per day, 5,600 per hour, 92 per minute. In response to a question by Dr. Nelson, Mr. Reyna explained that they are working on obtaining the undocumented numbers with the guesstimate at 46,000.

Mr. Reyna reported that 52% of the border region is Hispanic, with 12.5% in the United States, and 43% in New Mexico. He added that 31% of the population is under the age of 15, with 21% in the United States, and 31% in New Mexico. The estimated population growth in the border region from 2000 to 2010 will be 20%.

Mr. Reyna reported that the border rate for physicians is 60% lower than the non-border counties, which does not include Native American; the border rate for nurses is 32% lower than non-border counties, with dentists at 55% lower than the non-border counties.

Mr. Reyna added that white Hispanics have the highest rate of teen pregnancy in New Mexico with 17% in New Mexico and 21% in the border counties. He added that binge-drinking rates have increased for white Hispanics and Native Americans, with the white Hispanic rate at 28% higher than white non-Hispanics and the border rate at 35% higher than non-border.

Mr. Reyna stated that Chlamydia rates among white Hispanics are six times higher than white non-Hispanics and 4.1 times higher in females than males. He added that Native Americans generally experience the worst rates, while white non-Hispanics experience the best rates. White Hispanics have the poorest perception of their health, highest rates of teen births, drug-related death, firearm injury/death, Chlamydia, and binge drinking.

Mr. Reyna reported that in a 1995 assessment of border health needs, the BHC established an Environmental Health Committee (EHC) and asked Tom Ruiz to report on the outcome of the assessment.

Mr. Tom Ruiz, Environmental Epidemiologist, summarized the four ongoing or completed projects put together by the EHC and explained the EHC is made up from people in the community and various agencies, as well as students from the area. The first project was the creation of the Environmental Health Resource Guide specifically for Doña Ana County. Work is being done on guides for other border counties.

Mr. Ruiz reported the Biomonitoring project, which has been on going on for the last month, involves the collection of human biological media, such as urine. The samples

are collected from volunteers wanting to participate in the study and are then analyzed for levels of metals such as arsenic, beryllium, chromium, copper, mercury, lead and others. CDC is funding this study. The communities were chosen based on data and environmental concerns and include Sunland Park, Columbus, Mesquite/Vado, and Silver City.

Mr. Ruiz stated that because arsenic levels are known to have elevated in the drinking water in Columbus, samples of the drinking water are to be collected. Once the results are summarized in May, a report will be prepared providing recommendations to the residents.

Commissioner Morales commented that residents in the northern portion of the state have been warned against eating the fish because of high levels of mercury in the dams. Mr. Ruiz added that based on the data from the Ground Water Quality Bureau, mercury is more of a problem in the northern part of the state.

In response to a question by Dr. Hesse, Mr. Ruiz said in general there may be some compilation reports out of DOH as well as federal reports regarding contaminants around the state in general and added that what needs to happen is the data needs to be shared and merged, or cross-compared to synthesize or analyze the information. Mr. Ruiz added that the New Mexico Environment Department would also have data on the levels of various contaminants in the water systems.

Dr. Larragoite suggested that more information be gathered, possibly having the Environmental Department to do a Commission presentation, finding out what raw data may exist, and then this Commission could make a scientific recommendation in the form of a resolution to address the issue of water contamination.

Dr. Hesse so moved. Dr. Nelson seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous voice vote.

Dr. Nelson added that when he was Chair of the Radioactive Task Group for the Sandia National Labs Citizen Advisory Board, several studies were done to determine the radiation hot spots caused by above ground nuclear testing. He added the data is available and shows that some plutonium hotspots were found at the duck pond at UNM and in some medians along Central Avenue. It was surmised that there was some sludge from the sewage from Sandia that may have been used as fertilizer.

Mr. Ruiz reported that the third project, which will begin in late April, is the Sunland Park Soil Deposition Study where soil samples from around homes and dust samples from inside homes will be collected and analyzed for lead, arsenic and other metals. It is planned that over 100 samples will be collected and a GIS map will be prepared showing the collection points and concentrations of metals found.

Mr. Ruiz reported that the last of the four projects is the environmental health assessment for the communities of Mesquite and Vado, New Mexico. These are agricultural communities and the assessment will look at the characterization of the community

demographics, public and private industry, materials handled and the potential risks from those materials to public health. Border Research Solutions from El Paso, Texas will be conducting the assessment and will begin by holding stakeholders meetings.

In response to a question by Chair Lopez, Mr. Ruiz explained that a couple of years ago a farm worker health study was done to monitor the area for pesticide exposures. That assessment could lead to a full study to look at these exposures, but it is certainly an issue, especially in Doña Ana County, which is the most agricultural county in the state. Mr. Ruiz added that even though the workers migrate on a regular basis, the work is seasonal and the workers are not in one place for a very long time making it hard to determine some of the exposures.

Mr. Reyna reported that another OBH project is computer training for Community Health Workers/Promotoras, which is a unique project and responds to community needs. Promotoras means one who promotes health. The Community Health Workers/Promotoras are lay community members who have knowledge about their community and provide a link between the community and health and social services. The Regional Promotora Committee was established by the BHC in February 2003 and brings in community health workers to plan activities and assist in developing the project.

Mr. Reyna explained that there is also an Environmental Health Promotoras Program which funds six Promotora projects throughout the border region. Of the six projects, three have been nationally recognized (two have received awards of excellence, and one received a national award). Through the Environmental Health Promotoras Program, the only environmental project for the entire border, Promotoras will go into homes, assess what chemicals are being used, if these chemicals are accessible to children, test mini-blinds for the presence of lead, and assess how food is being handled and stored. The Promotoras also educate families in dealing with chemicals, food, and in rural communities, education is provided for the maintenance of septic systems. The family is provided a certificate for participating in the assessment.

Mr. Reyna reported on SJM76, passed during the first session of the legislature in 2003, which directed NMDOH to lead a study on the development of a community health advocacy program in New Mexico. The report, which was completed in November 2003, included the participation of the OBH staff and BHC Regional Promotora Committee, provided key recommendations to develop a core training program and create standards for core curricula based on core competencies.

Mr. Reyna stated that, in following the memorial, the OBH funded a regional study during FY 2004 to develop a pilot Promotora Training program. One of the key findings and recommendations from both the memorial and the OBH study was to offer a computer literacy training curriculum, which would be funded by both the memorial and OBH, would emphasize the demonstration of practical skills learned, would be included in all training curriculums, and would be offered in both English and Spanish.

Mr. Reyna reported the OBH developed a computer literacy training course (CLTC) and then conducted a six-week pilot. The CLTC in Doña Ana County was conducted in the spring of 2004 with 23 out of 24 Promotoras completing the course. APPI, Inc. from Las

Cruces donated one new personal computer and two refurbished computers to be presented to graduating students. He added that funding for the pilot course was provided through a grant submitted through the NMSU Border Epidemiology and Environmental Health Center (BEC) as well as \$5,000 from the National Network of Libraries of Medicine.

Mr. Reyna stated the findings from the pilot course were then presented to the BHC Regional Promotoras Committee on August 24, 2004, which then drafted and presented a recommendation to the BHC on August 27, 2004. In order to set up the training center \$100,000 will be needed each year for three years.

Commissioner Montano moved for the HPC to support the recommendations from SJM 76 (2003). Commissioner Morales seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous voice vote. Dr. Larragoite added that he would follow-up on this by contacting Mr. Reyna so an action plan could be created.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Budget Update

In reviewing the budget summary, Dr. Larragoite pointed out that at the request of Commissioner Montano, annualized totals were now included in the monthly budget update. He added that since 2005 is an odd year, HPC would be submitting a budget adjustment to DFA this week, requesting line item shifts where there is an over/under expenditure. It is possible that there will be approximately \$60,000 targeted to expend before the end of the year.

Dr. Larragoite stated that, due to the Governor's IT Executive Order, the agency did not have the opportunity to update the computer systems. The original IT plan was to upgrade all computers in the agency one-third at a time, but due to the lack of opportunity in previous years none of the computers were upgraded. This upgrade is critically needed as some of the computers are 10 years old and run very slowly.

Dr. Larragoite reported that the Network Administrator position has not been filled yet due to the new mandatory process of the Governor's IT Executive Order. Because HPC is a small agency, some of the IT capabilities in-house might be transferred to the General Services Department. He has sent a letter of urgency to the State CIO requesting approval to fill the IT position and pointed out GSD's capability to pay a higher salary for a network administrator but they would then turn around and charge HPC a higher amount just to house HPC's server.

Dr. Larragoite reported the final budget came out to \$1,398,000, which is \$31,000 less than what was asked for and less than what came out of the pre-budget summer hearings. HPC was penalized for having to revert \$64,000 last year, with disregard to Dr. Larragoite's testimony and letters sent to both the house finance and senate finance. Dr.

Larragoite reported HPC would still be faced with a \$110,000 shortfall in operations or payroll which will be taken from contractual obligations.

Personnel Update

Dr. Larragoite reported that Kim Price has accepted the Computer Analyst-A position and will move to that position once the paper work approving the salary has been received from SPO.

Dr. Larragoite reported that through a Joint Powers Agreement with HSD, HPC may share the Economist position with HSD. The economist who is currently employed by the HSD will be interviewed on Monday.

Dr. Larragoite reported the two Management Analyst positions have been advertised and several applications have been received. Under a two-tiered system, three employees will screen the applications to ensure the applicant has the experience necessary for the position. Once the application is screened and approved, the Interview Committee then reviews the application and grades each one with a point-based system. If the applicant scores above the threshold, the Interview Committee grants an interview. Once the interviews are conducted, a recommendation is made to the management team composed of the Director, Deputy Director, Ms. Stahl, and the HR Director or CFO.

Dr. Larragoite reported a letter of recommendation had been sent to the Governor's office recommending Kevin McMullan to fill the Deputy Director position. No confirmation has been received from the Governor's office.

Future Strategies for Commissioners and the Agency

Dr. Larragoite reported that with HB374, titled Health Policy Commission Membership, introduced by Representative Heaton, would expand the membership of the HPC from eight to nine members, and is a duplicate of SB358 introduced by Senator Lopez. Of the nine members, five members will be consumers and four members will be providers. The four provider members will be called upon to go through senate confirmation hearings this summer, and then to the full senate in January. In response to a question by Chair Lopez, the new member will join the Commission after July 1, 2005.

Dr. Larragoite added that the Governor would be staggering the terms for the Commission with one, two and three year terms. In response to a question by Chair Lopez, Dr. Larragoite explained that four members have actually been confirmed: Commissioners Anton, Hesse, Morales and Roman.

In response to questions by Dr. Hesse, Ms. Stahl stated HPC's by-laws were amended last year to state that if a Commissioner had three unexcused absences they would be asked to resign. If a Commissioner could not attend a meeting and called Dr. Larragoite or staff, it was considered an excused absence, but the Commission did not address how many excused absences one could have. Ms. Stahl explained the definition of excused

absence could include work, vacation, death in the family, illness, but instead of trying to define it, it was decided if staff or chairman is notified that was considered excused. Commissioner Montano recalled the amendment stated three consecutive absences.

Dr. Hesse questioned the excused absences of Commissioner Nieto and Chair Lopez added that if Commissioner Nieto has had three consecutive absences, she should be asked to resign. **Dr. Nelson moved for the HPC to draft a letter to Gloria Nieto asking for her resignation due to absenteeism. Commissioner Roman seconded the motion, which passed by voice vote of 6 to 1.** Dr. Hesse opposed the motion stating Commissioner Nieto had the responsibility of resigning without being asked due to the fact that she has not complied with the bylaws.

OLD BUSINESS

Final Legislative Review

Dr. Larragoite reported SJM37, titled Nursing Staffing and Retention, introduced by Senator Grubestic, requests the HPC as lead agency, in conjunction with other relevant agencies, to study the impact of nurse staffing and retention on workforce development and patient safety. The report, which would include recommendations regarding standards of staff, nurse-to-patient ratios, quality of patient care, and environment of care issues that relate to recruitment and retention of nurses, would be due to the LHHS Committee at its October 2005 meeting. A couple of pre-organization meetings with the Nurses Association and the Hospital Association have been scheduled with plans to schedule more with additional associations.

Dr. Larragoite reported SM7, titled Malpractice Insurance Dilemma, sponsored by Senator Campos, requests that the HPC and the Insurance Division of the PRC convene a task force of representatives from statewide health care practitioner groups to examine the medical malpractice insurance dilemma and its impact on providers and patients. He added that the Insurance Division has been contacted to schedule a meeting.

Dr. Larragoite stated that SJM70, titled Audit Health Care Appropriations and Revenues, sponsored by Senator Lopez, cites the large and apparently unending increases in Medicaid costs and the lack of clarity in what is included under the rubric "health care" in the state budget, the sources of health care finances and the amount spent on ancillary services instead of direct patient care as reasons for a study of state health care spending. At a meeting to be scheduled with Senator Lopez further clarification will be requested and reported back to the commission as to how that committee should be structured. This is a two-year unfunded study and will put a financial burden on HPC, but staff is prepared to organize and step up to the plate to do what needs to be done.

Dr. Larragoite reported that SJM30, titled Office of Women's Health, introduced by Senator Rodriguez, is identical to HJM21 and would create a task force to study establishment of an Office of Women's Health to facilitate women's health programs and improve coordination of services based on key health concerns of women. The task force

would report its findings to the LHHS Committee by October 2005 and the HPC is named to that task force. Since HPC is named as a member at the table, the Commission can discuss and decide at the next work session meeting if a staff member or Commissioner should attend.

Dr. Larragoite reported that HJM98, titled Prescription Drug Costs; Regulation and Oversight, sponsored by Representative Trujillo, asks the legislature to study the need for regulation and oversight of pharmacy benefit management companies. This bill comes with no funding and the Insurance Division as well as several pharmaceutical companies that have representation in New Mexico have been contacted regarding representation.

Ms. Stahl stated that HM43, titled Hospital Quality and Pricing Disclosure Study, sponsored by Representative Payne, asks hospitals to work with state agencies to develop a way to inform the public about hospital charges, their quality and annual increases in hospital charges. Because of intentional vague writing, it is unclear what is expected of HPC.

In response to a question by Chair Lopez, Ms. Stahl explained pharmacy benefit management may oversee pharmacy issues such as the benefits that are included in Medicaid, Medicare, hospitals, etc. and may then start directing how the programs should run.

LUNCH & TOUR

Chair Lopez called the meeting to back to order at 2:25.

GUEST PRESENTAION

Colleen Runyan, RN, Gadsden High School

Dr. Larragoite introduced Ms. Colleen Runyan, RN, and Patrician Cubilette, RN, both from the Gadsden School District. Both presenters expressed appreciation for the opportunity to present to the Commission and began with an explanation of the health issues and concerns at Gadsden High School (GHS) and Santa Teresa High School (STHS).

Ms. Runyan stated one of the basic needs in any community is health care. Students will never improve academically unless they deal with their individual health issues first. Out of the 2,500 students in the district, 70% are Hispanic, 60% are uninsured, and some have Medicaid. In many situations, the parents are still living in Mexico while the student lives with friends or relatives, moving around a lot, making it difficult to contact the parents in emergencies, or obtain and update the student's health record. Without the parents around, many kids lack family support and some get their only meal at school

Ms. Cubilette reported she is seeing more and more children who are medically fragile requiring oxygen, using feeding tubes, hemophiliacs, diabetics, etc. A lot of training is

required to care for these children and teachers have to be trained to be able to handle emergency situations. She spends quite a bit of time providing training and expertise to staff for the students who require special attention and medical care.

Ms. Runyan reported that for the past three years La Clinica de Familia (LCF) is at GHS on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon or after lunch. La Clinica staff are at STHS School Based Health Center Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. through 12:00 noon on Tuesdays and Thursdays. An average of one student every 20 minutes is seen. While Public Health oversees dental sealings for 2nd and 3rd graders, LCF provides general dental care and has a waiting list to get in.

Ms. Runyan reported she sees an average of 80 students a day at the high school, 60 students a day at the middle school, and 30 students a day at the grade school. She also provides health education whenever possible.

Ms. Runyan reported that emergencies are handled by teachers who are trained in CPR until an ambulance arrives. The response time for the ambulance is fairly good, but there have been times when it is tied up with an automobile accident. However, the ambulance will not respond to a call from GHS unless the emergency is a head trauma, so the teachers have learned to triage and work very closely with fire fighters and first responders. She added the closest hospitals are in El Paso and Las Cruces, but some families prefer to go to Juarez, Mexico where the cost is cheaper.

Ms. Cubilette stated STHS does not have as many emergencies as GHS but they do have 13 gangs. In response to a question by Commissioner Morales, Ms. Cubilette reported that the deputy sheriff, who is at each campus to maintain a visible presence, tries to get to know the gangs personally.

Ms. Runyan stated that because El Paso and Las Cruces offer more resources, it is difficult to attract teachers, nurses, and physicians. There is also the problem of non-reimbursement for dentists or untimely reimbursement, lack of bilingual health professions, as well as the Medicaid enrollment every six months.

After discussing Medicaid enrollment, Dr. Hesse moved to support yearly enrollment (versus six month re-enrollment) for Medicaid. Dr. Nelson seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous voice vote.

In response to a question by Ms. Stahl, Ms. Runyan explained that the district also needs behavioral and mental health care in dealing with suicide cases. One of the local agencies, Southern New Mexico Human Development, has a high staff turnover, making it impossible to have continuity. She added the high turnover could be from a number of reasons such as low salaries, inexperience, not being familiar with the system, or the tremendous caseloads.

Commissioner Montano asked if students could be immunized during the summer months and Ms. Runyan explained with both the traditional school schedule and the

continuous school schedule, only two to three weeks would be available during the summer months making it impossible to do complete health assessments.

Ms. Runyan reported the teen pregnancy rate was extremely high with 136 pregnant students (that she knew of) at GHS. The nurse practitioner from LCF was spending most of her time dealing with pregnancy issues and was not able to treat the other students. Ms. Runyan added three years ago the school board was approached with a request for sexual education and in March, Public Health started going to the GHS every Friday for pregnancy counseling. She added with the average age of children beginning to have sex at twelve years old, Public Health provides condoms and birth control, but does not include pre-natal care.

Ms. Runyan stated that basic health education, covering issues from proper hygiene to mental health to sex education, should be available to students. Dr. Hesse recommended that HPC look into improving health and sexual education in New Mexico's schools. Dr. Nelson suggested having the Secretary of Education present to the Commission at a future meeting to address some of these issues and then they can make a recommendation.

NEW BUSINESS

Medicaid FMAP

Ms. Stahl reported Senator Bingaman will be introducing legislation to limit the amount of FMAP drop from year to year and suggested HPC send letters to congressional delegates in support of Bingaman's bill. **Dr. Hesse motioned for a letter to Congress in support of the FMAP changes per Senator Bingaman's bill. Chair Lopez amended the motion for include thank you letters to Senator Bingaman and Representative Wilson.**

School Based Health Centers and Indian Health Service Issues

Ms. Stahl stated several of the school based health centers are in partnership with Indian Health and one of the main concerns is that Indian health services will only see Native American students in their clinics. She asked the Commission for approval to contact a woman who works at a clinic under this partnership in Farmington, to request options on how to serve the non-native students, in partnership with Indian health, somehow waiving some of the rules or regulations to provide service to non-native students. Commissioners were in agreement to further investigate the issue.

Presentation to American Association of Medical Colleges on Physician Survey 2002

Dr. Larragoite reported HPC staff has been asked to give a presentation in Washington, D.C. based on the 2002 Physician Survey. Kevin McMullan, who originally put together a good portion of that survey, wrote about it, and did power point presentations, will be doing the presentations. Dr. Larragoite added plans are being made to update the survey.

Oral Health Council

Dr. Larragoite provided the Commission with the Oral Health Council's (OHC) draft press release regarding the expansion of school based health centers. The recommendations are to include an oral health component, that adult Medicaid oral health services be mandatory by state and not optional, support of the state oral health surveillance system, and a formal request to the Governor for an executive order to improve the licensing and credentialing of oral health care providers.

Dr. Larragoite reported the Oral Health Council also set an ambitious agenda to create New Mexico's first oral health care plan which has never been done in the state. Only three other states have this type of plan. It is his intention, as Chairman of the Governor's Oral Health Council, for the HPC to play a large role, giving periodic updates and having the opportunity to make recommendations to the Governor's Health Council. Chair Lopez recommended a discussion of the Medicaid re-enrollment cycle from six months to annually. Dr. Larragoite will call the work groups of the OHC and ask for inclusion of the recommendation.

Ms. Stahl added the Employer's Survey is completed and has received fabulous response. The survey was mentioned on the front page of the Albuquerque Journal and Dr. Larragoite has been asked to do a radio interview.

Dr. Larragoite stated the information obtained from the Employee's Survey helped to formulate the Governor's agenda on Insure New Mexico. As a result, three positive bills were introduced and passed by the Governor effective July 1, 2005. The bills included allowing part-time employees working 20 hours to obtain insurance through the state health insurance pool; allowing children up to age 25 to be covered by their parents' insurance regardless of enrollment in an educational institution, and allowing small businesses to purchase insurance through the state plan at the same rate offered to state employees.

After a brief discussion it was decided that the next HPC meeting would be held on Friday, June 10, 2005 in Santa Fe starting at 9:00 and would be a full day work session with no guest presentation. The Commission would discuss and formulate an action/strategic plan for the next fiscal year, discuss how to become more pro-active in staff's activities, discuss and formulate policy recommendations, amend the by-laws, and review some of the legislative memorials given to the HPC during this and past legislative sessions.

Dr. Larragoite and the Commission thanked Commissioner Roman for all her hard work in scheduling and setting up today's meeting.

ADJOURN

Upon motion by Commissioner Hesse and seconded by Commissioner Montano or Morales, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:45 p.m.

Approved by:

Andy R. Lopez, NMHPC Chair

Date

Submitted by:

Michelle Gorman