

MINUTES OF THE
STATE OF NEW MEXICO
HEALTH POLICY COMMISSION
TELEPHONIC MEETING

August 8, 2008

(FINAL-----FINAL-----FINAL)

(Minutes shall be approved, amended or disapproved at the next meeting where a quorum is present. Minutes shall not become official until approved by the policy-making body.)

Members Present

Members Absent

Dawn Brooks Dr. Frank Hesse Dr. Eric Kraska Karen Kotch Kim Maxwell Seferino Montano	Moises Morales Miles Nelson Alicia Roman
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Call to Order

Dr. Hesse called a telephonic meeting of the State of New Mexico Health Policy Commission (HPC) to order on Friday, August 8, 2008, at approximately 8:30 a.m. at the Health Policy Commission office, Santa Fe, New Mexico, and welcomed new Commissioner Brooks.

Staff members present included Director Stefanics, Carlos Beserra, and Kooch Jacobus via telephone.

Approval of Agenda

Dr. Kraska requested that the discussion of communication between staff and commissioners be added to the agenda, and Dr. Hesse requested that a priority list and motions passed at previous HPC meetings for the past four to five years be added to the agenda, both for today as well as future meetings. Commissioner Morales asked Dr. Hesse to also request that the drug problem in the Espanola area be added to a future agenda.

Dr. Kraska moved for approval of the agenda with the requested additions. Commissioner Maxwell seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous voice vote.

Approval of Minutes from May 2, 2008 Meeting

Director Stefanics explained at the July 18, 2008 HPC meeting, the commission had questioned whether the minutes from the May 2, 2008 were complete or missing the language of a motion passed for the establishment of a dental school as a number one priority. In reviewing the recording of the May 2, 2008 it was determined the motion had not been made or passed during the May 2, 2008 meeting, but rather had taken place at previous meeting.

Dr. Hesse moved for the approval of the May 2, 2008 meeting. Dr. Kraska seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous voice vote.

Approval of Minutes from July 18, 2008 Meeting

Dr. Hesse pointed on page nine, the paragraph beginning with "With 50% of the population," the third line with the sentence: "At the state level, 35% of New Mexico's total population is below poverty line and is constantly rising, ..." should be changed to "35% of Mexico's total population ...".

Commissioner Kotch moved for approval of the July 18, 2008 with Dr. Hesse's change. Dr. Kraska seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous voice vote.

Dr. Hesse stated he was very impressed by the presentation at the July 18, 2008 meeting regarding iReach and asked Director Stefanics, Commissioner Brooks and Dr. Kraska to work together in scheduling more similar presentations at future meetings.

Director Stefanics asked if the Commission wanted abbreviated minutes or detailed minutes in the future and explained that at the July 18, 2008 there was several times where the recorder was told certain discussions were off the record. Director Stefanics apologized for this explaining the Open Meetings Act did now allow for off the record discussion during a regular Commission meeting.

Commissioner Brooks moved for abbreviated minutes. Commissioner Maxwell seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous voice vote.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

(A) Topics for Commission Meetings:

Director Stefanics suggested the presentations for the Commission's November 7, 2008 and asked for guidance from the Commissioners: Lobbying 101 and the legislative process; former Commissioner Waldo Anton regarding his experience on lobbying with HPC and AARP; and a presentation from the Telehealth Commission. Other topic suggestions have been: drug problem in northern New Mexico; Native American health services in the state; hospital quality measures and reporting done by HPC for the health

plans and what hospitals do differently than insurance plans; an update on the Behavioral Health Purchase Collaborative; and teen pregnancy in New Mexico.

Dr. Kraska suggested other topics could also be presented on: critically ill patients sent out of state; the amount of specialty coverage, ICU beds, aka the surge capacity at the state level; and the unneeded morbidity and mortality secondary to lack of services, lack of bed and resources.

Commission Brooks suggested a memorial be drafted addressing access issues and behavioral health. Dr. Hesse agreed and suggested Director Stefanics and Commissioner Brooks work together on this.

Dr. Hesse asked Commissioner Brooks and Dr. Kraska work on future topics for the Commission and Director Stefanics asked that Ms. Jacobus be included in on this.

(B) Discussion of Contents for Future Phone Meetings:

Director Stefanics asked the Commission for a discussion of the contents for future phone meetings and pointed out a decision would have to be made by the next HPC meeting currently scheduled for November 7, 2008. Dr. Hesse suggested the Commission postpone this discussion until it is known what the future of the Commission will be.

Discussion of Actions, Recommendations, or Resolutions from Past Meeting in Las Cruces:

Director Stefanics asked the Commission if there was anything that was presented or discussed at the Las Cruces meeting which can be made into recommendations to be forwarded to the legislature and Governor's office. Topics from the Las Cruces meeting included: The DAC Alliance and iReach program; Office of Border Health; NMSU; and the DAC Community Health Services. Dr. Kraska pointed out Border Health was very important and stated a summary on the issue would be helpful and Dr. Hesse Agreed.

Commissioner Kotch moved for Director Stefanics to prepare a summary of border health issue's would include all the counties along the border. Dr. Kraska seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous voice vote.

Director Stefanics asked the Commission for the consideration on the request from the Oral Health Council regarding the proposed 2009 funding request for the New Mexico Dental Association to add 20 dental students through WICHIE and encourages the Commission to some kind of a recommendation.

Commissioner Kotch moved to support the Oral Health Advisory Council's recommendation and to further review the establishment of a dental school in FY09 with a focus on placement of dentists in rural communities. Dr. Hesse seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous voice vote.

Discussion and/or Action on Universal Health Care

The Commission was provided with Governor Richardson's three health care reform proposals for the 2008 special session. Ms. Jacobus explained Bill No. 3, the Governor's proposal for electronic medical records, would: ensure treatment of electronic medical records consistent with existing non-electronic medical records; provide for security and privacy protections associated with the use, collection, transfer, and storage of electronic records; provide for a log associated with record locator services indicating who accesses what electronic medical records of identified persons and the date of that access; allow limited access to electronic medical records w/o express consent only in emergency situations that are life-threatening and require immediate treatment; allow individuals to request exclusion of their records from a record locator service and obligating the record locator service to do so within 30 days; and protect from civil liability any person who complies with a request for release of electronic medical records or refuses to comply with such a request based on a reasonable belief that the individual making the request did or did not have apparent authority to do so.

Dr. Kraska moved to support the Governor's Electronic Medical Records Legislation. Commissioner Brooks seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous voice vote.

Ms. Jacobus explained Bill No. 2, the Governor's proposal for insurance reform would: require at least 85% of premiums collected by health insurance companies must be spent on direct services; guarantee issue of individual coverage w/o permanent exclusion of preexisting conditions as of 1/1/2010; increase portability of extending the allowable lapse in creditable coverage from 63 to 95 days for purposes of eliminating or limiting preexisting conditions waiting period, consistent in all programs; hold down cost increases for small employers/small groups by changing from 20% to 10% the amount premiums can be increased above the average rate because of health status or experience; require health insurer plans to contact with qualified IHS and other Native American provider allowing IHS and tribal 638 providers to be part of a carriers' provider network if serving only Native Americans; employers required to offer IRS Section 125 pre-tax plan to interested non-covered employees; tribes as employers are exempt from this requirements; children and adults through age 18 are required to enroll in available public or commercial plans; and focuses on children with an appropriation of \$58 million over an 18 monthly period, starting in January through following year and would cover all uninsured individuals through age 18 who are currently eligible for Medicaid or children eligible for the Premium Assistance for Kids program.

Commissioner Kotch moved to accept and support Bill No. 2 with no indications as to reservations. Dr. Kraska seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous voice vote.

Ms. Jacobus explained the third bill, Bill No. 1, the Governor's proposal for the Consolidation of Public Programs & Creation of New Mexico Health Care Benefits Administration (HCBA), creates the HCBA and phased-in consolidation of

administrative functions of public health coverage programs to gain administrative efficiencies. HPCD would be phased in on January 1, 2009. The HCBA would have 11 voting members, three appointed by the Governor, five appointed by the LFC, two cabinet secretaries (Human Services Dept and DOH), and one superintendent of insurance. The HCBA staff would appoint an executive director with senate confirmation; and the staff would include a full-time Native American liaison.

Commissioner Kotch moved for the following resolution: The New Mexico HPC at its August 8, 2008 meeting resolved that the Commissioners support Governor Richardson's Health Care Benefits Administration Act and believes the mission, function, goals, and work of the HPC should be continued in the future to assist the HCBA. Commissioner Montano seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Montano moved to adjourn at 11:35 a.m. Commissioner Brooks seconded the motion

Approved by:

Dr. Frank Hesse, NMHPC Chair

Date

Submitted by:
Michelle Gorman

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