

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

**May 1, 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.)**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Lopez called a regular meeting of the State of New Mexico Health Policy Commission (HPC) to order on Thursday, May 1, 2008, at approximately 1:12 p.m. at the HPC's Conference Room, 2055 S. Pacheco Street, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

**Members Present**

Waldo Anton  
Dr. Frank Hesse  
Andy R. Lopez  
Dr. Miles Nelson  
Alicia Roman

**Members Absent**

Seferino Montano  
Moises Morales  
Dr. Michael Trujillo

**Welcome & Introduction**

Director Stefanics welcomed everyone to the meeting and the following staff members introduced themselves: Deputy Director Kooch Jacobus, CFO/HR Manager Peggy Schummers, and Special Projects Coordinator Carlos Beserra.

**Approval of Agenda**

**Dr. Nelson moved for approval of the agenda. Dr. Hesse seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous voice vote.**

**Approval of Minutes from January 11, 2008 Meeting**

**Commissioner Anton moved for approval of the minutes from the meeting on January 11, 2008. Dr. Hesse seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous voice vote.**

### **Approval of FY07 Audit**

Peggy Schummers provided the Commission with a copy of the final FY07 Audit done by Macias, Gutierrez & Co., P.C., pointing out the two findings reported in the Audit's: (1) the reversion for fiscal year 2006, \$228,070 and other amounts (\$3,000) due to the general fund were not made until October 2007; and (2) the Commissioners had not approved the agency's FY 06 Audit.

The agency's budget for FY07 was decreased 3% from the previous year, from \$319,500.00 to \$1,281,900. As in prior years, the agency's appropriation was initially accounted for in three expenditure categories as follows: \$799,700.00 allocated to salaries and benefits, \$226,700.00 allocated to contractual services, and \$294,100.00 allocated to other operating costs.

The agency's capital assets are limited to its personal computer hardware, software and server and are historically valued at \$49,537.00 with a net of accumulated depreciation to \$40,007.00. For FY 08, Director Stefanics reported the Department of Health (DOH) will be buying a \$5,000.00 back-up server to the agency's computer, and the Human Services Department (HSD) will be buying 12 staff desk chairs costing approximately a total of \$2,500.00.

At year-end, the agency's accounts payable were \$44,175.00, with \$54,418.00 for the accrued payroll and benefits payables, \$363,992.00 owing to the State General Fund resulting from unexpended funds, and \$23,900.00 in compensated absences due within one year.

The agency highlight was that in the state fiscal year 2007, the HPC continued to provide leadership and staffing for legislative bills, memorials and compliance to numerous statutorily mandated requirements for the collection and analysis of New Mexico health care data.

Director Stefanics added the HPC did meet statutorily set deadlines in getting the audit in and commended Ms. Schummers for a great job done.

**Commissioner Roman moved for approval of the Audit. Commissioner Anton seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous voice vote.**

### **Resolution #3-Information Shared W/Department of Health**

Director Stefanics informed the Commission there was nothing in writing regarding Resolution #3 but that the agency was continuously receiving requests for data from DOH. She explained that each state agency either has a General Counsel or has an attorney from the Attorney General's office assigned to it. The HPC's previous attorney had retired and a temporary attorney, Betsy Glenn, has been assigned to the agency. Because one of the HPC's staff members believed the Health Policy Commission Act did

not allow for the agency to share identifiers and confidential information with DOH, Director Stefanics has drafted a Memorandum of Agreement with DOH. Once Ms. Glenn reviews and approves the agreement, the agency can then share confidential information in the form of aggregate data which will not only fulfill DOH's requests, it will also enable DOH to meet federal requirements.

**Dr. Hesse moved for HPC's staff to release the information requested by DOH, pending approval by Ms. Glenn. Commission Anton seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous voice vote.**

Director Stefanics explained that Ms. Vicky Groskinsky, IT Lead Manager, and staff are currently doing a wonderful job of cleaning up all the Hospital Inpatient Discharge Data (HIDD) and starting in calendar year 2009 additional data currently not being collected will be collected. The agency will then be able to share the data with the Healthcare Cost & Utilization Project (HCUP), contractor for the federal government, who will then make it available on their website.

In order to improve efficiency, access and security, during the third quarter of FY08, the platform for the Hospital Inpatient Discharge Data (HIDD) was moved from SAS into SQL Server 2005. Due to this major change, no HIDD requests were fulfilled; therefore, no requestors were surveyed to determine satisfaction. The agency will continue its work to standardize a platform for all databases within the agency.

### **Review of HPC Legislative Analysis**

Deputy Director Jacobus provided the Commission with a copy of the agency's performance report for the third quarter of FY08. In summary, during the 2008 legislative session, HPC received a total of 87 legislative requests for health-related bill analysis from the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC), however staff actually analyzed 190 health-related bills, and 32 amendments and substitutes to bills, which exceeded the agency's goal of 150 health-related bills. Staff not only provided the LFC with the 87 analyses requested, but also provided all analyses completed which in turn, the LFC provided to the Governor and all Legislators.

Also during the third quarter, the HPC received 48 requests for information and was able to complete 43 of those requests, or 90%. The remaining requests for information will be fulfilled now during the fourth quarter of the fiscal year. The agency's performance as it relates to this measure has improved, increasing from 86% in the second quarter to 90% in the third quarter.

Included in the information provided to the Commission was a 25-page summary of the 190 bills of legislation the analyzed by HPC staff which does not include all analyzed bill amendments. As seen on the summary, each bill was tracked by and identified the LFC analyst, HPC's analyst, the sponsor of the bill, a short title of the bill, the timeframe of the bill, a synopsis of the bill, and each bill's significant issues. The summary included a

column identified as “Pre-filed in Time” which meant the bill was actually filed by it’s sponsor before the legislative session began, prior to December 15, 2007 or within 15 days prior to the session starting.

All agencies submit bill analyses to the LFC who then prepare the fiscal impact reports for each bill. The LFC not only incorporated HPC’s analysis in most cases, they also quoted some of the analysis word for word, or they used such language as “according to the HPC,” or in the least, gave credit to the HPC for a job well done.

All of the 190 bills first went to HPC’s analysts, then to their supervisors, then back to the analysts for revisions, and finally were reviewed by either Director Stefanics or Deputy Director Jacobus before being submitted to the LFC. The writing style of the agency’s analyst developed from the beginning, and they eventually picked up the language and momentum.

Deputy Director Jacobus also provided the Commission with copies of six of the actual analysis done by staff and submitted to the LFC which included: HB 214, entitled Health Security Act and sponsored by Representative Roberto Gonzales; HB62, entitled Health Solutions New Mexico Act and sponsored by Representative John Heaton; SB430/s entitled Create Legislative Health Committee and sponsored by Senator Timothy Jennings; SB67, entitled Retiree Health Care Fund & Members and sponsored by Senator John Arthur Smith; HB493, entitled Expand Nursing Programs Statewide and sponsored by Representative Rhonda King; and HB236, entitled Off-Reservation Native American Health and sponsored by Representative Mimi Stewart.

Director Stefanics reported that Kevin McMullan had left HPC to work for New Mexico Health Resources which does recruitment of health professionals in the state. Mr. McMullan’s new e-mail address is: [Kevin.McMullan@nmhr.org](mailto:Kevin.McMullan@nmhr.org).

Director Stefanics provided the commission with a copy of the report on the up-coming forum entitled: Looking to the Future: Preparing for the Next Generation in Health Careers which HPC is co-sponsoring. Director Stefanics, Deputy Director Jacobus and Management Analyst Tom Kauley will be attending the forum as well as Dr. Hesse.

### **FY 08 HPC Work Plan**

Director Stefanics provided the Commission with a 2008 calendar showing what the staff will be working on through the end of the year. In March, staff began working on memorials, in April the memorial task force met, the memorials will be completed by June, the HIDD and the Strategic Plan will be completed in July, GADs will be completed in September, Quick Facts and CO Indigent will be completed in October, and the Managed Care Guide and the Annual Report will be completed in November.

The Senate Joint Memorial 5 is a research project which is basically a 50-state survey. One good thing for staff coming out of this survey is that they will be finding and

contacting their counterparts in other states enabling relationships to be set up and as well as the exchange of information between the states.

**Commissioners Survey & Discussion**

Deputy Director Jacobus provided the Commissioners with a survey and ask the Commission to choose three topics and return the surveys before they left the day.

**Future Meeting Dates**

Director Stefanics suggested quarterly meetings for the Commission since the agency's budget had been cut by \$100,000.00. During the Commission's discussion, it was pointed out that in previous discussions during the past two years, the Commission felt it was necessary to meet monthly which not only enable the agency and Commission to become and stay involved, but also to have a recognized and dependable voice in the health care community.

Chair Lopez suggested scheduling at least six meetings and after the Commission discussed dates and schedules, it was decided the Commission would meet on Fridays as follows: July 11, 2008 in Las Cruces, September 5, 2008, November 7, 2008, January 9, 2009, one meeting would be scheduled after the legislative session, and the last meeting on May 4, 2009.

The Commission then discussed the administrative structure and the agency's attachment to state government.

**ADJOURN**

**Dr. Nelson moved for adjournment at 3:28 p.m.**

Approved by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Andy R. Lopez, NMHPC Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Submitted by:  
Michelle Gorman

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