

MINUTES OF THE
STATE OF NEW MEXICO
HEALTH POLICY COMMISSION
MEETING

September 7, 2007

(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 Friday, September 7, 2007, at approximately 9:10 a.m. at the Health Science Center University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Members Present

Dr. Frank Hesse
Andy R. Lopez
Seferino Montano
Moises Morales
Alicia Roman

Members Absent

Waldo Anton (*excused*)
Dr. Miles Nelson (*excused*)
Dr. Michael Trujillo (*excused*)

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes from July 20, 2007 Meeting

Commissioner Roman moved for approval of the June meeting minutes as written. Dr. Frank Hesse seconded the motion. Chair Lopez pointed out the typo on page 3, third paragraph and asked that “f” be changed to “if”. The motion then passed by unanimous voice vote.

Director’s Introduction of Topics

Director Stefanics thanked the commissioners for traveling to the University of New Mexico to have the opportunity to meet with the medical school, the health sciences center and many of their staff and faculty today. On another business note

Commissioners are going to have photos taken today for government ID cards so you can get government rates at hotels.

Welcoming Remarks, Dr. Paul Roth, Executive Vice President, Health Science Center University of New Mexico

Dr. Roth thanked the Commission for their time and welcomed everybody to the Domenici Health Science Center. In going around the state and meeting with various leaders there is some confusion between the UNM Hospital and the UNM Health Sciences Center which are two separate entities.

In 1994 the University of New Mexico consolidated many of their health programs organizing them under a totally different structure separate from the remaining University of New Mexico and called the new structure the UNM Health Sciences Center (UNMHSC). Within the UNMHSC there are three colleges: the school of medicine; the college of pharmacy; and the college of nursing. Also included in this structure is the health sciences library. The University of New Mexico Hospital includes the regular University of New Mexico's Hospital, Tingley Hospital, UNM Children's Hospital, the Children's Psychiatric Hospital, and the UNM Psychiatric Hospital which used to be called the Mental Health Center are all part of the Health Science Center.

As Executive Vice President, Dr. Roth, is responsible for all the UNMHSC programs including the UNM hospitals and the CEO of the hospitals reports to Dr. Roth. Each of the colleges has their own deans.

In looking at their mission, the UNMHSC's has been able to convene deans, faculty, program leaders to decide who they are and what their purpose is in order to help and maintain a healthy community in the state. With public funding the UNMHSC has been able to provide an important and needed public service and is actively involved in many communities around the state.

Specifically UNMHSC's mission is to:

(1) produce the next generation of workforce types, numbers, quality, not to sacrifice content or diversity when lives are at stake; (2) to generate information that will serve as the basis for good health policy, innovations, in educational systems, and health delivery systems and continually advancing our knowledge of diagnostic and treatment options; (3) to deliver primary through quaternary health care and preventive medicine; and (4) to maximize community health and address all "challenges" working with state and local agencies and community groups.

The ingredients of a healthy community include:

- (1) a healthy environment;
- (2) prevention of disease to maximize health & longevity;

- (3) acute & chronic care medical services (primarily through quaternary health care); and
- (4) a delivery system characterized by ease of access, cultural competence, medical expertise, and compassion for everyone.

UNMHSC's research is very intense and represents more than half of all the research done at UNM. Through funding from the HSC, research programs have been created and new laboratories have been built with the intent to generate new information so that new drugs and treatment can be found and thus create a better understanding of diseases and possible prevention.

The research program has five signature programs:

- (1) brain & behavioral illnesses;
- (2) cancer biology;
- (3) cardiovascular and metabolic diseases;
- (4) environmental health; and
- (5) infectious diseases and immunity.

A few months ago the county health report card program was started to look at various data points for every county in the state. The report card is very comprehensive and includes a number of health care characteristics to identify the services and activities of each county as well as the total number of students and graduates.

Through a grant of over \$18 million from the Robert Wood Johnson foundation the UNMHSC will create a health policy center to look at ways to meet the state's health needs with precise focus on health disparities. Health starts at a fundamental level and includes such elements as our environment, the air we breathe, the food we eat, the water we drink, as well as social deterrents.

POISON CONTROL, JESS BENSON, M.D.

Dr. Jess Benson thanked the commission and explained the New Mexico Poison & Drug Information Center (NMPDIC) is a 24-hour emergency telephone service via a 1-800 number which is the same throughout the United States. The NMPDIC has been used quite a bit throughout the entire state and in 1977 was moved from the county hospital into the college of pharmacy. The program is funded almost entirely by the state through special project allocations that occur each year at the end of the legislative cycle.

Confirmed by the regional poison center since 1979, the Center provides information on drugs, poison and hazardous information and operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. In 2006 out of the 40,000 calls received, 24,000 were poison emergency's, 2,500 animal poisoning, 14,000 regarding drug information, and 16,755 patients treated at home for a savings cost of approximately \$6 million. In the last couple of years the percentage of

calls for children has dropped considerably. The Center is funding and because of its existence, health care expenses have been capped.

UNM Bachelor, Medical Degree Program, Valerie Romero-Leggott, M.D. and Richard Santos, Ph.D.

Both Dr. Santos and Ms. Romero-Leggott have both been involved with the BAMD for the last 4 years and thanked the Commission for the time to conduct their presentation. The whole idea behind the BAMD is to improve the health and well being of New Mexicans by increasing the number of physicians. The BAMD admission committee is comprised of 17 Science of Medicine faculty, five community members, three faculty advisors and three ex-officio members.

The current medical school class will be increased from 75 students to 100 students with the curriculum and training focusing on the health care needs of the state. There are three undergraduate degrees to choose from emphasizing liberal arts, social sciences and humanities, with strong preparation in the sciences. Integrated health seminars are held throughout the undergraduate years as well as summer service-learning experiences held in rural communities that are medically underserved. With a supportive learning environment students are offered faculty clinician mentors, living & learning communities, specialized advising, scholarship & financial aid packages, tutoring and supplemental instruction, and MCAT preparatory courses.

Admission criteria in the BAMD program is based on a combination of factors including determinants of practice in rural and underserved areas include rural background, underrepresented minorities, training in rural or underserved areas, and graduation from primary care training program.

In 2006 141 applications were received, 91 interviewed and 30 selected. Out of those 141 applications, 49% of the students were from outside the Albuquerque/Rio Rancho area. In 2007 188 applications were received, with 112 interviewed and 28 selected. Out of the 112 applications, 56% were from outside the Albuquerque/Rio Rancho area.

The classes of 2006 consisted of 67% students from outside the Albuquerque metro, 16 females, 14 males, and the average GPA was 4.11 and the average ACT was 26.5. The classes of 2007 consisted of 68% students from outside the Albuquerque metro, 16 females, 12 males, and the average GPA was 4.10 and the average ACT was 26.6.

UNM Medical School, PAUL ROTH, M.D.

Dr. Roth provided the Commission with the 2007 Location Report which provides facts about MD recipients and former residents of the UNM School of Medicine. Now in its tenth year 1,100 applications have been received for 75 positions in the entry class level.

Some of the students accepted to the school are not New Mexico residents coming from states participating in the WICHE program and who show an interest in staying in the

state after graduating to meet the needs of the state. The medical school is a four year program and then the student continues on with an additional three to seven years of training depending on what specialty they are interested in. Once completed, the student then becomes either an internship or fellowship.

With 819 faculty members there are now more women in medicine than men with their salaries very comparable. The facilities in the Center has a closed medical staff which means only faculty members in the medical school can practice medicine. The Center has a very special relationship with the Veterans Administration and has approximately 700 contracts with the faculty from the medical school, 150 of which are private physicians who have volunteered. Because of 9/11, a board of retired physicians has been created as a backup.

UNM DENTAL RESIDENCY PROGRAM, DR. GARY CUTTREL, DDS

Dr. Gary Cuttrel explained the national movement in dentistry is towards a dental residency program offering a one-year program with an option of a second year and the UNM Dental Residency Program (UNMDRP) is a post graduate program. Because there are so many specialties in dentistry, students must go through advanced education programs for three to four years. The purpose of the residency is to give advanced training past what one would receive at a dental school. The UNMDRP offers students a lot of patient care in clinical settings much like private practice and is fully accredited through 2012. In 1999 the UNMDRP began with classes starting in 2004.

A residency is not a required element for dentistry but their goal is to recruit and retain dentists in the state. To remain accredited the program must offer a mandated curriculum which includes advanced training. The program has several locations throughout the state with the main clinic located in Albuquerque where a majority residents are located. In 2005-2006 the program had approximately 10,000 patients and in 2007 they had approximately 15,000 patients coming from all over the state.

TOUR OF UNM CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

UNM COLLEGE OF NURSING, KAREN CARLSON, PH.D.

Ms. Carlson reported one survey showed New Mexico ranking 44 out of 51 with 63 nurses for every 10,000 residents. Another survey indicated that 55% of surveyed nurses reported an intention to retire between 2011 and 2020. In 2006 there were 15,000 registered nurses with 60% educated at the associate's degree level, and 27% receiving adapted degrees. The majority of those nurses reside in Bernalillo and Sandoval County.

One of the goals of the College of Nursing is to assist rural areas in the state to increase the number of registered nurses. There are nearly 600 students presently enrolled at the College which is double the number of students in 2001. The national average of the exam rate is at 83-84%, while New Mexico's was at 95% last year. There are also over 4,200 alumni of the College with nearly 70% of those residing in the state.

The College, funded by the legislature, was awarded \$707,000 last year and \$500,000 this year and the money was used to implement programs at satellites sites throughout the state. There were 16 students admitted in January attending the two basic programs in Taos and Valencia Counties. If a student receives an associate degree in nursing from a community college, he or she can attend the College of Nursing to receive a bachelors degree.

GOVERNOR'S WOMEN'S HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL, GIOVANNA ROSSI

Dr. Justina Trott thanked the commission for the opportunity to speak and provided a copy of a report on the Governor's Women's Health Advisory Council which was submitted to the Governor on December 1, 2006.

In 2005 the New Mexico Legislature unanimously passed both Senate Joint Memorial 30 and House Joint Memorial 21 requesting the New Mexico Commission on the Status of Women to appoint a task force to study the creation of a New Mexico state office on women's health. Designees from state offices, representatives from agencies and individuals who participated at a health summit held on June 23, 2005 were appointed to the task force. The task force prepared a report which was presented to the Health & Human Services Interim Committee in October 2005 and in March 2006 Governor Richardson signed Executive Order 2006_014 creating the Women's Health Advisory Council (attached to the Department of Health) to explore the challenge of highlighting women's health within the larger health system.

The Governor then appointed 15 members to the Council and Giovanna Rossi as Director of the Council. The Council's vision is to create an environment in which every woman and girl in New Mexico will experience optimal health and well-being. Its mission is to improve the overall health and well-being of women and girls in New Mexico through consideration of the individual woman's experience, using a woman-centered approach, and advocating for change in the health care system.

The Council adopted a women's health model to ensure a holistic approach to policy, planning, programs and services. The model is derived from the Centers of Excellence and it integrates five components of primary care delivery:

1. Direct services;
2. Outreach and education regarding health promotion, disease prevention and disease management;
3. Leadership – development and community capacity building including skills that empower patients and communities to take control of their health and live healthy lives;
4. Professional education and workforce development for providers and clinical staff, especially regarding cultural competency; and

5. Research related to the complex issues in sex- and gender-specific health care with attention to diversity, health promotion, disease management, and treatment outcomes.

The Council unanimously recommends that the new women's health paradigm be integrated comprehensively into our state's effort to create healthy individual, families, and communities throughout New Mexico. To achieve this vision through specific institutional change the WHAC developed two recommendations: (1) New Mexico will emerge as a national leader in women's health; and (2) the council will focus on DOH priorities, develop and implement a comprehensive prevention and health promotion campaign to demonstrate and pilot-test the new women's health paradigm as one specific strategy to make positive impact on the health of women and create health promoting policies.

In order to achieve these goals, the Council will seek additional funding and support to undertake convening a meeting of national research and policy leaders to plan for a National Women's Health Agenda, partner with radio stations to provide a women's health radio show, plan for subsequent statewide women's health summit in April 2008, and undertake an education campaign which would include community training.

In order to prepare the report, the Council used guiding documents, guiding principles and the five-point model which reflects a woman-centered, holistic approach.

DISCUSSION

Director Stephanics sent an e-mail to the commissioners that state agencies are asked not to come up with new legislation because the Governor's office will be working on legislation on health issues. This would not keep the Commission from making recommendations to the Governor's office and she suggested that at every meeting verbalizing something she would put in letter to the Governor to have them think about possible legislation.

A discussion was held on possible future dates of October 19, 2007 in Santa Fe, December 19, 2007 in Santa Fe, December 7, 2007 in Las Cruces, and January 18, 2008 in Santa Fe which would be right before legislative session.

At the October 19 meeting the Secretary from the Department of Human Services would present on whatever the Commission would want to hear about, Michelle Welby from the Governor's office wants to come back and give an update on the Governor's legislation, and staff will present all the task force memorials to the commission. At the December 7 meeting the Dona Ana Health & Human Services Coalition will present on their pilot project with state agencies to do web based enrollment for all state services. The January 18 meeting would be focused on legislation.

ACTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Approval of Budget

The Commission was provided with a request for resolution which included the agency’s 2009 budget request which had to be submitted on September 4 with a request of less than 200,000 increase have requested and expansion of six full time employees which would bring the total number of full time employees to 15.

**Commissioner Montano moved for approval of the budget as presented.
Commissioner Roman seconded the motion; which passed by unanimous voice vote.**

Director Stephanics provided the Commission with staff’s report on the review of state universal plans across the country. The report was also provided to the Governor, DFA and legislators working and interested in the topic. The report is organized by topic and state and has received positive feedback. Another document provided to the Commission is legislation introduced since 1985 relating to health care.

ADJOURN

The next HPC meeting will be on October 19, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. at the State Capitol Building, Room, 309, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Commissioner Lopez moved for adjournment at 3:30 p.m.

Approved by:

Andy R. Lopez, NMHPC Chair

Date

Submitted by:
Michelle Gorman

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