

MINUTES of the REGULAR
SAN MIGUEL COUNTY HEALTHCARE STUDY &
PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD NOVEMBER 9, 2023 AT 4:30 PM

SMC HealthCare Study & Planning Committee

1. CALL TO ORDER

The San Miguel County Healthcare Study & Planning Committee held a meeting on Thursday, the 9th of November 2023 at 4:30 PM at New Mexico Highlands University located at 800 National Avenue in Las Vegas, New Mexico. San Miguel County Commission Chairman Harold Garcia called this meeting to order at 4:43 PM.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Harold Garcia asked for item 8. Residency Development in the Region be discussed after item 4. Public Input.

Motion to approve agenda with changes indicated made by Kenneth Medina. Second by Edward Sena. Motion carried.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes for approval are SM-09-20-2023 and SM-10-12-2023. Motion to approve SM-09-20-2023 made by Robert Nelson. Second by Matthew Probst. Motion carried. Motion to approve SM-10-12-2023 made by Yolanda Ulmer. Second by Matthew Martinez. Motion carried.

4. PUBLIC INPUT

None.

NEW BUSINESS

5. RESIDENCY DEVELOPMENT IN THE REGION

Matthew Probst introduced himself, he is the Director of Rural Engagement for the UNM Office for Community Health who is also a primary care provider in San Miguel County. Mr. Probst talked about his project called Semillas De Salud, it's a "grow your own health professionals". He stated that per capita, Northern New Mexico grows more health professionals than anywhere in New Mexico. Mr. Probst wants to establish a residency here in the near future so

that people who are about to finish med school that are from here, will hopefully come back here to practice.

Mary Alice Scott, Executive Director of New Mexico Primary Care Training Consortium spoke on the organization and that they contract with the Human Services Department to help support planning grants for groups that are interested in starting to plan residency programs. New Mexico Primary Care Training Consortium could be the applicant/fiscal agent for the grant to do the grant management and subcontract with all organization that are involved or any organization that is involved with the residency program can apply for the grant.

Nichole Mandall, Director of Operational Development with New Mexico Primary Care Training Consortium talked about what a residency program is. Residency is when someone graduates from med school that goes into their professional training.

Elisa Wrede, Senior Manager, Primary Care Innovations with the Human Services Department spoke about the grant offered for rural medical expansion projects, it will fund money to do a feasibility study, if the project is moving forward the grant will fund all of the work to open up the residency program.

Mr. Probst added that he would really like if there was a sub-committee due to the timeline being short, and hoping to talk more about this during another meeting. Residency is going to increase the amount of physicians coming back to this community.

6. UPDATE ON HOSPITAL

Robert Nelson, Interim CEO and CFO of Alta Vista Regional Hospital mentioned that the hospital is making improvements and has great potential. October was the first month in the positive in financials. Spinal anesthesia is something that he is wanting to get at the hospital, as well as more ICU beds and is also looking into doing dental procedures. They have hired 9 local nurses and have 12 clinical rotation students from LCC that he is hoping stay with the hospital. ICU nurses have contacted Mr. Nelson and are willing to come back once they get the ICU opened. The hospital still has everything in place to take care of anyone in need of ICU level care, intubation and ventilation.

7. AMR AMBULANCE SERVICES IN THE AREA

Ruby, Operations Manager with American Medical Response (AMR) came into Las Vegas/San Miguel County in 2021 very little data was given to AMR as far as call volume, in-facility transports at that time when they entered into contract with San Miguel County they did ask Alta Vista to meet so they could discuss ongoing issues but Alta Vista did not respond. Lack of ambulances and AMR staff was discussed to be an issue to the county, majority of employees

are coming from elsewhere. Patients need to meet medical necessity per insurance in order to be transported. Ruby mentioned that overall, she has not seen a problem with the relationship between AMR and Alta Vista. When stand-by is done for school games, there are two spare ambulances that are used for that. Mr. Harold Garcia mentioned the significant increase from \$563,000 to \$1.4 million being paid to AMR and also suggested that AMR provide quarterly reports to the City of Las Vegas and San Miguel County.

8. DISCUSSION AND SUGGESTIONS OF KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (KPI's)

Joe Lupica, New Point Healthcare Advisors LLC spoke on the KPI's that were prepared by Edward Sena with the help from Joe's team to the committee for them to look over. He talked about the community rebuilding trust with the hospital. The KPI's align to the community, and KPI's are something that the committee can do productively with the hospital and encouraged the committee to come up with more.

9. OTHER DISCUSSION

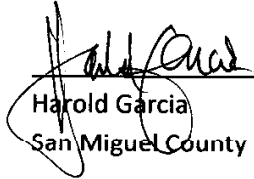
Christina Rivas-Campos, San Miguel County Liaison recommended that one of the things the hospital should to build trust is publicizing who the workers are.

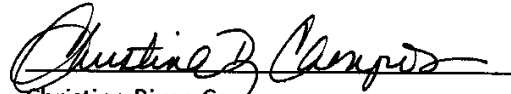
Pat Leahan, Director of the Las Vegas Peace of Justice wants to have 10 minutes to talk about a proposal during the next meeting.

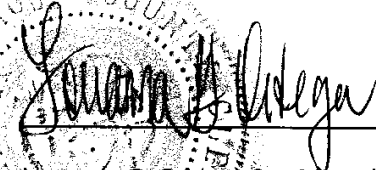
ADJOURNMENT

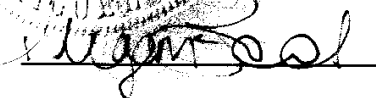
Motion to adjourn Special Meeting made by Kenneth Medina. Second by Pat Leahan. Motion carried. Adjourned at 7:02 PM.

Approved this **21st** day of **May, 2024** as the Official Minutes of the San Miguel County Healthcare Study Committee Meeting held 09 November 2023 at the NMHU Student Center, Las Vegas, New Mexico.


Harold Garcia
San Miguel County Chairman


Christina Rivas-Campos
San Miguel County Liaison

ATTEST:

Louanna G. Ortega, San Miguel County Clerk



Minutes submitted by

Megan Stroud, CM Executive Assistant

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