



County of Los Alamos

BCC Meeting Minutes

Los Alamos County Health Council

1000 Central Avenue
Los Alamos, NM 87544

Lori Padilla, Chair; Philip Gursky, Vice - Chair; Cameron Counters; Carie Fanning; Caron Inglis; Maxine McReynolds; Gisel Martinez; Abbie Nelson; and Morrie Pongratz, Members

Thursday, March 2, 2023

12:00 PM

Zoom:
https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_gBERfpPhQ3y1xxGfP-H4sw

Members of the Public can, also, join this meeting via Zoom by pasting into their browser the following:

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or by Telephone:

US: +1 346 248 7799 or +1 669 444 9171 or +1 719 359 4580 or +1 720 707 2699 or +1 253 205 0468 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 309 205 3325 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 360 209 5623 or +1 386 347 5053 or +1 507 473 4847 or +1 564 217 2000 or +1 646 558 8656 or +1 646 931 3860 or +1 689 278 1000 or +1 301 715 8592 or +1 305 224 1968

Webinar ID: 876 5061 0892

I. CALL TO ORDER

Present: Lori Padilla, Chair; Philip Gursky, Vice-Chair; Members Cameron Counters, Gisel Martinez, Abbie Nelson, and Morrie Pongratz

Absent: Members Maxine McReynolds, Carie Fanning, and Caron Inglis

Panelists/Attendees: Eloisa Sanchez, Katherine Hudspeth, Jessica Strong, Deni Fell, Emily Piltch, Candice Wilhite-Quiroga, Marilyn Bennett, New Vistas Center for Independent Living

The Los Alamos County Health Council meeting of March 2, 2023 was called to order at 12:04 pm by Chair Padilla. Board Members made introductions to Social Services Manager Jessica Strong.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

Marilyn Bennett, New Vistas Center for Independent Living & FIT programs; serves 9 counties including Los Alamos County; announced New Vistas may disburse free Covid-19 test kits to agencies, call for more information.

Melissa Arias with Lemonade Living, Rose Chocolatier, the Gifted Horse, and Homestead Ranch School, announced a Special Dance April 1st at Fuller Lodge for individuals with developmental disabilities and special needs.

Candice Wilhite-Quiroga, NM DOH Health Promotion Specialist and main contact for the NE Region, oversees the LACHC traditional funding as well as Jr. Bill funding.

III. BUSINESS

[17123-23](#) Approval of Minutes from the Los Alamos County Health Council meeting on February 2, 2023

Presenters: Lori Padilla

A motion was made by Morrie Pongratz, seconded by Philip Gursky, to approve the February 2, 2023, meeting minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

I move that the Board approve the Minutes for February 2, 2023

[17128-23](#) Presentation by Robert Dryja

Robert Dryja presented observations related to poverty in Los Alamos amongst children, youth, and older adults with particular focus on older women living in poverty. Members asked questions and discussed ways to support and to consider incorporating information into Comprehensive Health Plan interviews.

[17129-23](#) LACHC Sub-committees Discussion

Presenters: Lori Padilla

Lori, item to be discussed after Health Crisis item

[17139-23](#) Health Crisis

Presenters: Morris Pongratz

Morrie Pongratz spoke to the health crisis in the State of New Mexico with concern for physician retention at the local level.

He recommended LACHC take consideration of the issue, as an advisory board to the Los Alamos County Council. As this item was noticed as a briefing, no action was taken.

IV. BOARD/STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

[17124-23](#) LACHC Comprehensive Health Plan/Equity Subcommittee Update

Presenters: Cameron Counters

Cameron Counters shared the most recent Comprehensive Health Plan Equity Subcommittee meeting minutes are now available. Emily Piltch provided a quick update about the Health Equity Advisory group and the efforts to consider everyone in the community when health planning. The group will meet monthly. Approximately 40 provider interviews have been conducted and volunteers are needed for identifying potential sub-populations w/unique health needs. Volunteers help move the process along serving as interview scribes or offering up strategies to hear from community members with lived experience. A final CHP report date aims for January 2024. The community survey will move to the implementation phase to align with Los Alamos County budget season.

[17125-23](#) AdHoc Committee Updates

attachment from BabyNet, no other updates

17126-23**Chairman's Report**

Presenters: Lori Padilla

Chair Padilla commented about the importance of subcommittees and shared that member representation is open for Basic Needs and Older Adult Network.

17127-23**Staff Report**

Presenters: Jessica Strong

Jessica Strong, Social Services Manager, shared that LACHC Board appointment recommendations were approved by County Council for Lori Padilla, Cameron Counters, and Morrie Pongratz. LACHC board member interviews are being scheduled. She and Cameron Counters attended the NM Alliance of Health Council's annual state conference in Santa Fe and will share out to the group.

V. COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS

No report.

VI. PREVIEW OF NEXT MEETING

Lori Padilla asked for requests for upcoming agenda items. A request to include the LACHC Work Plan and a request to consider YRRS data related to youth and suicide were shared. JJAB is developing a plan for restarting a Youth Resiliency Committee; and Las Cumbres has worked with JJAB to start a teen support group to address similar issues.

The next Los Alamos County Health Council meeting will be on April 6, 2023.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:28 pm.

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