

Otero County Community Health Council
700 E. First Street, Suite 720~Alamogordo, NM 88310
oteromch@netmdc.com and oterochc@tularosa.net
OCCHC Phone: 575-443-8100 Fax: 575-437-2949
Website: www.oterohealthcouncil.org



**Otero County Community Health Council
Minutes
April 1, 2008**

Attendees:

Lee Ann Loney	Otero County Community Health Council
Allen Stenger	OTEC
Lorraine (?)	NAVA
Oscar Cereceres	DWI/Teen Court
Eloise Damon	Mescalero TUPAC Program
Janie Richardson	Community Addiction Treatment Services
Alicia Rios	Housing Authority City of Alamogordo
Jim Kerlin	The Counseling Center
Gloria Vaughn	
Esther Hein	New Mexico Commission for the Blind
Linda Velez	New Mexico Commission for the Blind
Sue Medina	Alamogordo Public Schools Board of Education
Julie Baker	Presbyterian Medical Services
Daniel Gurule	Molina Medicare
Michael Murphy	Disability Resource Center
Robert Hawkins	Alamogordo Cross Disability Coalition/CAPPED
Kathie Mongoraz	Gluten Free/Celiac Diet Support Group
Grace McMillin	LC12
Ana Fox	Big Brothers Big Sisters
Cindy Najar	Heritage
Sylvia King	Community Addiction Treatment Services
Jennifer Madden	Alamogordo Public Schools
Pat Fish	Alamogordo Public Schools
Ardena Orosco	Mescalero Prevention
Letitia Spitty	Mescalero Prevention
Patricia Tsosie	Mescalero Prevention
Tracey Spencer	Airman and Family Readiness Center/Holloman
Janis Wimmer	Council on Alcohol
Sharon Hodges	Dept. of Health/Health Promotions

President Sylvia King opened the meeting with introductions. She also thanked Molina for providing lunch.

Program: Daniel Gurule of Molina Medicare presented the program. Molina is a managed health care program covering SCHIP, Medicaid, etc. They not only operate in New Mexico but



also other states. They also have 21 primary care clinics around the country. Molina was started by an emergency room physician 25 years ago.

He gave a brief background regarding Medicare. Medicare covers insurance for people over 65 and is operated out of the US dept of Health and Human Services. Part A Medicare is hospital insurance and also covers home health and hospice. Part B, is voluntary and covers doctor services, labs, medical equipment, etc. Part C is a private insurance option combining Parts A and B. Part D covers prescription medication. Molina works within this framework. Molina's Medicare Advantage Plan covers Medicare A, B, and D. The Medicare deductible is \$2510, and after people reach this, they move into what is called the donut hole coverage gap where there are many out of pocket expenses. Private companies like Molina can help get deductibles down. Original Medicare doesn't cover some alternative medicine, eye exams, physicals, etc.

Molina Health Care Managed programs include Molina Options Plus and Molina Options Plan. The Plus program has a zero premium to enroll. Members pay virtually no out of pocket, copays etc. and it covers some things not in regular Medicare. You must have Medicare Parts A and B. You must use in network providers and choose a primary care physician. There are several in Otero County. There are zero deductibles, 0 office copay, 0 hospital, 0 out patient service costs. You also get one physical/year. There is full coverage within the gap (donut hole). There is zero premium for generic medicines, \$3.10 for name brand Preferred medicines, and just over \$5 for non-preferred. Dental is also included, as is skilled nursing, ambulance, ER, hearing exams and hearing aids. You get a new pair of glasses every 2 years also. Molina also provides health and wellness education and transportation to services (52 round trips/year).

Molina's Options Plan is for those with Medicare only (not Medicaid). There is 0 deductible, and the copays are very small, such as \$5 for primary care, \$15 for a specialist and \$200 for an entire hospital stay for all services. Also, the copay is \$20 for outpatient mental health, \$20 for patient rehab, and \$0 for an annual physical. There is also no copay for labs and x-rays in both Molina plans. The coverage gap for medication in the Options Plan is basically doubled from the Plus plan. There is also a \$5 dental copay, including 2 cleanings/year, and \$1000 for comprehensive dental/year. Vision and hearing also covered with a \$250 credit for glasses or contacts.

Molina comes to our area once/month. Open enrollment is from November 15 to March 31. Those with dual eligibility can change plans at any time. Or if you are just turning 65, you can change at any time.

Health Council Priorities Reports:

1. Substance abuse – The next Substance Abuse Awareness Coalition (formerly Meth Coalition) meeting is Tuesday April 8, 11:30 at The Counseling Center. There will be a program on the Dept. of Health harm reduction and needle exchange program. This program includes providing needles for people with Diabetes. We will also briefly discuss the Drug Free Communities Grant and plans for our monthly awareness programs. It was mentioned that the New Mexico Alliance is working with YEA and the B&G Club regarding filming for prevention programs.
2. Obesity – The next meeting of the Otero Diabetes Education and Prevention Collaborative will be April 24 at noon at Otero PATH. This is a date change for this month. Also, April 23 there will be an Obesity/Diabetes Symposium from 9am-4pm at



the Civic Center. The focus will be Healthier Living. Lunch will be provided but space is limited. Contact 437-2460 for reservations. April 7 is the regular meeting of the Diabetes Success Group, 1pm at Otero PATH. The focus of this meeting will be “Myths About Diabetes”. This group meets the 1st Monday of each month.

Health Council Business:

1. Community Health Profile – Lee Ann said the Profile update is complete and the new profile should be on the webpage soon.
2. Community Resource Directory – Lee Ann is still collecting information for the update of this document.
3. Health Council Bylaws – Lee Ann passed out a copy of the current bylaws and asked that people look particularly at the membership section because it needs to be changed. This year we had more than 30 who applied to be voting members. We will discuss this further at the May meeting.
4. Chamber Update – no news this month.

Community News:

Sylvia King is a substance abuse counselor and she and Janie Richardson have opened a new office today. Business cards on table.

Allen Stenger said the next OTEC meeting is April 18 at CHINS. There is no program, just a regular meeting. Also, today is the election for the school bond.

Daniel Gurule said he would stay after the meeting to talk to people about the Molina Medicare program.

Jim Kerlin said The Counseling Center stays busy. They are looking for licensed counselors. The situation is critical situation in Southern NM. The region is down by 30 clinicians, and it is taking longer to get people in. They are currently working on developing a program with CYFD and the detention center for jail diversion starting in July, including all day treatment, etc. They can't get clinicians because of cost and the enormous oversight and paperwork involved. Clinicians are opting for private practice instead.

Janie Richardson also talked about the re-opening of their practice (Community Addiction Treatment Services) and added that she also provides counseling for anger management and domestic violence.

Kathie Mongoraz talked about the new celiac support group. They are getting such a response that they may have to look for a new space. They are considering doing a cooking workshop as well as developing a calendar and website.

Alicia Rios announced a city town hall fair and affordable housing. They will have realtors and other housing entities there. They will also be presenting Housing Authority crime stats. The Town Hall is April 14, 6pm at the civic center.

Jennifer Madden said that Alamogordo Public School's spring break is next week. There are many referrals for social work at the schools. Pat Fish added that this time of year is crazy at schools.



Janis Wimmer announced that the Council on Alcohol will be closing on April 30 due to lack of funds. They are however still looking for additional funding sources.

Ana Fox announced the annual Big Brothers Big Sisters Bowl for Kids Sake April 13. They still need teams and pledges. The Stars school based mentoring program is at 200 matches, and will not be taking any more matches for this school year. They still need volunteers and referrals for the community based program.

Esther Hein from the Commission for the Blind said they work with adults teaching them personal management. People come from around the state with a lot of personal needs. Watch for students in the public with canes and shades. They are learning new skills around their disability. Linda Velez added they work with many students on Medicaid, and at the end of the month they will have seniors as well. Blindness is a growing problem because of macular degeneration and Diabetes. The main office is in Albuquerque. They have field teachers and counselors for younger ones that want to go back to work or school.

Eloise Damon works with the Tobacco Use Prevention and Control (TUPAC) program in Mescalero. She is finishing up the program for this year, and just learned that they have been funded for 3 more years. She and others from Mescalero Prevention Program are heading to Alaska today for a conference.

Ardena Orosco said the Mescalero Region Community Prevention Coalition will meet April 22 from 11am-1pm at the Apache Empowerment Complex. They are working on new objectives including working with faith based groups to get all community activities alcohol free. They recently had a meeting with law enforcement from 10 agencies extending a hand to help with underage enforcement, including conducting shoulder taps, and training for law enforcement. There will be training for BIA officers on compliance checks. Also they will do some in Tularosa and Ruidoso.

Sue Medina announced for Rep. Nate Cote that Education officer at HAFB passed away (Velmo Holm). She also said the School Board will be attending a workshop on budgets in Albuquerque soon. There are continuing meetings open to all on the school budget and Technology programs. The regular Board meeting is April 15. Also she mentioned that the autism support group meets April 18.

Donald Yee is representing www.everythingalamogordo.com and Digital Solutions. The website provides free pages for non-profit orgs, and wants to be the "YouTube" for Alamogordo. Digital Solutions does web design and is offering \$59/month website management.

Julie Baker said the Cloudcroft clinic has a new 10 year contract. They continue to be the only provider for the County indigent program besides the hospital. They do everything for the client to get them enrolled in the program. It's easy to sign up and they can still use the hospital and ambulance. All information is at Tularosa clinic.

Tracey Spencer said they will have a Family Readiness Deployment Expo May 13. They are looking for community information booths for this event. There will be 15 minute workshops, presented 4 times.



Oscar Cereceres said the April DWI meeting has been cancelled. The next meeting will be May 8. He also said that Mr. Yee has been recording Teen Court and that should appear on the www.everythingalamogordo.com website soon. April 2, DWI and B&G Club will have a town hall on underage drinking and a celebration for B&G Showtime Dancers. It will be 5-7pm at the club. He will be presenting stats for underage drinking. Lee Ann thanked him and Tammie Reynolds for working together on this as both were originally planning separate programs for the same time. However, when this was discovered, they combined efforts instead of competing.

Tim Basha from Nava talked about Access To Recovery (ATR) and that they will do central intakes for Otero County. They will provide a list of providers so the clients can choose their own services. The clients get vouchers for services including medical, alternative services, child care, transportation, etc. They also want faith based services. Providers can download applications on internet. Call 434-2501. They are still looking for providers, but the services started today.

Cindy Najar of Heritage said there is new construction by hospital in Ruidoso and this is where they will be located when finished.

Grace McMillin said that LC 12 has hired another coordinator for Lincoln County. Grace will work primarily in Otero County. April 4, the meeting will focus on legislative priorities for LC 12. It will be at noon in the board room at The Counseling Center. April 25, is the monthly Otero County meeting. They are still and always recruiting members. There is also a subcommittee for the children's health care plan, and they will meet April 9. Value Options talked about the possibility of our area having a consumer drop in center, and there are some that are considering this and how to get it. Monday nights there is a sexual assault survivor group at 6pm at CAPPED. Take Back the Night is April 5 at the Tays Center at 6pm.

Sharon Hodges talked about the Planning for the Future and Living for Today Symposium April 12. This will include resources for planning for your senior years. It will be at the Senior Center, 9am – 5pm. There will also be information booths besides the presentations. April 19 is the Youth Asthma Camp at the B&G Club. The Asthma lunch club has written a books about asthma and is seeking funding for publishing. There is also a Diabetes symposium April 23. Next week is National Public Health Week. The Dept. of Health is going green and is encourage people to conserve. Monday April 21 will be “Keepin’ It Real, Catch a Conversation” for youth and their parents. This is a program of Project Not My Kid. There will be round table discussions about important issues and a teen panel, as well as community information tables. The focus will be to help parents and their kids start the dialog about important issues.

Michael Murphy said the Disability Resource Center is assisting people with getting benefits and services. He will be serving on the board for a new non-profit that is working to encourage Universal Design for housing in New Mexico. There is a Statewide initiative to incorporate universal design in home building.

Lee Ann Loney talked about the Helping Hands Coop that is for people with disabilities that want to help each other. They will meet today at 3:45pm (portable building behind Academy del Sol, contact her for more information). Today we hope to talk about the Drop In Center and see if they are interested in this.

Sylvia King reminded everyone about the 1st Chris Maribel event to benefit his family.



Gloria Vaughn had a packet of information on the 2008 NM Humanitarian Award and thought that the Health Council may have someone to nominate. The deadline for nominations is August 21.

The next meeting will be May 6 with a program by Mesilla Valley Hospital.

