

Otero County Community Health Council
Minutes
November 6, 2007

Attendees:

1. Allen Stenger OTEC
2. Sharon Hodges DOH/Otero County Public Health
3. Robert Hawkins Alamogordo Cross Disability Coalition/CAPPED
4. Pat Fish Alamogordo Public Schools
5. Jennifer Madden Alamogordo Public Schools
6. Julie Baker Presbyterian Medical Services (PMS)
7. Rebecca Walker NMSU
8. Ken Nicholson Democrat Party of Otero County
9. Denise Lang Peace and Justice of La Luz
10. Michael Murphy Disability Resource Center
11. Jean Jaszai Gerald Champion Regional Medical Center
12. Carolyn Lee JPPO
13. Tracy Spencer Airmen Family Readiness
14. Kelly Knight Otero County Extension Service
15. Kay Jenness COPE
16. Hope Helms COPE
17. Janis Wimmer Otero County Council on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism
18. Eddie Reeves CHINS
19. Lori Tilman Otero PATH
20. Tammie Reynolds Boys & Girls Club of Otero County
21. Grace McMillin Local Collaborative 12
22. Azori Sparks Alamogordo Public Schools GRADS
23. Jake Meyer CHINS
24. Kerry Rice Girl Scouts Zia Council
25. Laura Meredith Holloman Air Force Base
26. Isela Sayen Alamogordo Public Schools
27. Maria Gallegos HELP NM Child Development Centers
28. Santiago Rodriquez Otero County Council on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism
29. Alicia Rios City of Alamogordo
30. Lee Ann Loney Otero County Community Health Council
31. Beatriz Favela Southern Area Health Education Center/Diabetes Initiative
32. Carol Meyer CHINS

Allen Stenger, Vice President, opened the meeting with introductions.

Program: Melissa Shoemaker of the new Alamogordo Healthy Airways Coalition and the Youth Asthma Project presented our program. It began last fall because the Buena Vista school was going to be demolished. Through this, she got to know Sharon Hodges. As a respiratory therapist, Melissa talked with Sharon about issues of asthma, and this led to a grant application through the Paso del Norte Health Foundation. They received the funding in May and the work is just now beginning.

She provided many statistics on asthma, including over 5 million children have asthma, which is double the number from 15 years ago. About \$10.7 billion is spent per year on things related to asthma including medical costs, and school and work days lost. It is not known what caused the increase but possibilities include genetic and environmental factors. The goal of the project is to improve quality and access to services, education about the illness, asthma friendly schools, prevention and management. This is a 1st of its kind grant and the Foundation is watching closely. If it

works, they may expand statewide.

They are using children as peer educators in program, with emphasis on the "40 Developmental Assets" developed by the Search Institute. These are assets necessary for child development. Over 50% of the Assets are covered in this grant. The Boys & Girls Club of Otero County is the fiscal agent and they are planning an asthma camp for next spring. The Youth Empowerment Association is also helping with this project. The project participants meet once/month at the schools. "ATTACK" is the new name used by the kids, and they also use the Tiger mascot pictured carrying an inhaler. The Camp will be organized by students, who are developing topics, etc. Kids will also be the teachers. The Camp will take place in Spring 2008. Friday night of the Camp will be family night. They hope ultimately to expand to all schools, and open the camp to the community. The Camp could also go statewide.

If you wish more information about the program, call Melissa at 491-2291 or melshoe@hotmail.com. The next meeting will be Nov 29, starting at lunch with 6th graders. .

Sharon Hodges added that Tammie Reynolds of the B&G Club and Lisa Patch of the Alamogordo Public Schools will be attending the Search Institute conference this week, and this will help the development of the program.

OCCHC Business:

1. Health Council Priorities Update:
 - a. Substance Abuse:
 - i. Meth Coalition meets Tuesday November 13, 11:30-1:00 at The Counseling Center. – Denise Syling and Eddie Reeves talked about the Meth forum. It was a good event both felt.
 - ii. Meth Research Group update – Denise Syling said that the Group is still working on publishing opportunities.
 - iii. December Substance Abuse Collaborative meeting hosted by Otero County – December 11 (in lieu of regular Meth Coalition meeting) 10am-12:30pm – Lunch will be provided (RSVP to Naomi at 575-528-5151 or Naomi.Fahrenkrug@state.nm.us). Lee Ann encouraged all to come.
 - b. Obesity/Diabetes:
 - i. Otero County Diabetes Education and Prevention Collaborative – Next meeting is Thursday November 15, 11:30-1:00pm at Otero PATH – Lori Tilman said they are currently working with Ben Archer Health Center on a Diabetes support/walking group. They will have speakers, share recipes, etc. They are working to find out how we can work with school staff regarding children with Diabetes. Also, there are community use computers at the Otero PATH office. If anyone would like to look up information related to Diabetes, they may use these computers free of charge.
 - ii. Walk Out West Report – This was a great event. Estimates were that about 900 people came through the zoo that day. The 1.5 mile walk was successful, as well as the health fair. There was also a lot of entertainment and the Steel Talons from Holloman presented the opening and closing flag ceremonies. They will begin working on next year's event, which has been scheduled for October 11. She thanked all who made this event a success.
2. Otero Health Council Business:
 - a. Health Council Supplemental Funding opportunity – Lee Ann talked about this sudden opportunity for additional funding. She will send out notice and get more input. Some suggestions included "Take Back the Night" April 5 and the "Project Not My Kid" activities. The funding does have some limitations as projects must relate to existing priorities (substance abuse

and obesity/Diabetes), or be used in specific ways as outlined by the application.

b. Speakers Bureau development – Lee Ann said she would be sending out information about this through the email. Those who wish to be on the speakers bureau will need to meet to discuss the presentation, etc.

c. Health Council training opportunities – Lee Ann reminded the council about these trainings being offered by the Dept. of Health to improve council development, etc.

d. Update from Chamber of Commerce Government Relations Committee – Allen Stenger had no news this month.

Community News (If you bring handouts, please take any leftovers with you. Thanks.)

Isela Sayen is still looking for resources for kids in schools. She is getting contacts and networking for families at Sacramento and North.

Maria Gallegos said that there is a health literacy education program November 17 at the Women's Club from 9am-12pm. All are invited to this Head Start parent training.

Beatriz Favela just started working with Southern Area Health Education Center's Diabetes initiative. She replaces Amy Trujillo who recently took a new position. She is hoping to bring some classes to Otero County on healthy lifestyles.

Laura Meredith is working with the Community Action Information Board and they are applying for a grant to develop more effective services for families after deployment. There seem to be increased incidence of violence, etc. They would like to contract for resiliency services if funded.

Carolyn Lee said JPPO got approval to move a behavioral health clinician position from Las Cruces to Alamogordo. They will be looking a masters level person for this position.

Jean Jaszai said the hospital has been designated a level 3 trauma center. Also, some at the hospital are interested in establishing a detox facility. She is looking for other interested parties to help. Please let her know if you are interested in working on this. Santiago Rodriguez said he is definitely interested and they will talk.

Michael Murphy said the Disability Resource Center's personal attendant services are expanding. There are currently 3 working on leaving nursing homes. There still has been no action on "Money Follows the Person", but many are working on this at the state level. He also said that "Freedom Day" may change to a different date. This is a special day at the legislature to acknowledge issues around disabilities. Housing is the biggest issue this year.

Jake Meyer announced the CHINS "Play Group" meets 2/month. This is for parents and children age 0-3 years. They meet at the Alta Vista Learning Center. Also, there are 3 tobacco cessation groups now including in Cloudcroft, La Luz, and Tularosa. Another is starting in December at the hospital. They also work with individuals. He is currently writing for tobacco funding (this is their 11th year) and he would appreciate letters of support and collaboration.

Denise Lang is a part of "Peace and Justice of La Luz". She works with the jail and the library to help get books to the prisoners and to the halfway

house. – worked with jail to get books to jail, and half way house. She is looking for spiritual and classic paper back books, etc.

Ken Nicholson represents the Democratic Party of Otero County. He said the politicians need our attention and letters to encourage action. The candidates are open to ideas.

Rebecca Walker is a student at NMSU and is required by her class to observe community meetings such as the health council.

Azori Sparks is working on a Christmas party. She has 42 on the YEA Angel Tree, and if you wish to help any of her students through this, contact Denise Syling. Also, the second Teen MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) meeting is November 26.

Julie Baker said that they are having trouble finding patients to sign up with them to get the County Indigent Fund help. The County will pay 77% of the bill at PMS and the rest will be waived, but no one is signing up. PMS has removed all the barriers to signing up by making the process as easy as possible as well. She asked everyone to help refer people to them for these services. Applications are in the clinic and at the county office. It was suggested that maybe she could write an article for the Health Happenings (Health Council) column. They are also working with the hospital to help encourage people to use the clinic services rather than going to the ER for non-emergency needs.

Santiago Rodriquez wrote a 3 page letter to the Governor regarding how the Council on Alcohol continues to receive people from all over the state for services, but the state seems to be indicating that there is no need for residential treatment services. He said that Value Options is currently paying the Council on Alcohol for 4.42 beds, yet they consistently have up to 15 in residence. He and his group participated with the Meth Awareness Month activities including providing many school and community programs. Several from the Wright House, current and former clients, told their stories at Tularosa and Mescalero Schools. They got letters from some of the kids as well.

Sharon Hodges said the flu shots are here and will be distributed via various sites throughout the county. They will also be scheduling by appointment. She also announced that they had the 1st meeting for the seniors and family community symposium scheduled for April 12. This will cover a variety of topics including caregiving, estate planning, etc. She is working with LC12 and the Alamogordo Senior Center as well as several others to plan this event that will include Lincoln County and resources from neighboring areas. Please let Sharon know if you are interested. The Safe kids Coalition is now with the hospital. They will be providing helmets for Head Start, which have been requested. New Mexico has won a national award for our comprehensive helmet law. Project Not My Kid will meet next on November 16, 11:30-1 at Otero PATH. YEA will host lunch. They will be looking at curriculum, etc. Alamogordo Public Schools Wellness Mental Health subcommittee will meet November 13. They want to work on mapping resources, and comprehensive mental health clinics in schools.

Allen Stenger said the next OTEC will be early due to the Thanksgiving holiday. The Great American Smoke Out is coming soon (November 15) and there will be an event in the Tularosa Public Schools. in public schools. Also, the community is still working on a new library. They are discussing a bond issue. Thursday at 6pm there will be a public meeting for the library and all are welcome to come. There will be door prizes and snacks. The library is collecting aluminum cans Saturday from 8-12. Recycling has

brought in about \$600/month to the library.

Lee Ann Loney mentioned the brochures about Together Rx Access that are available to help people get discounted prescriptions. Also, she talked about the state Meth Conference and said that Denise Syling and Ken Larson represented Otero County well. Otero County is becoming known in the state for our work on Meth. She also mentioned that there was no talk during the presentations about the help that Health Councils and Local Collaboratives can provide to communities around Meth and substance abuse issues. This was a clear oversight on the part of the conference planners, including Dept. of Health and Value Options, and some are working to make sure this does not happen again at such state events.

Tammie Reynolds talked about the November 29th Mustang give away to benefit the B&G Club. They are working in conjunction with Alamo National bank on this. She also announced that the Club is out of the RED! This was great news for them as it has been a long struggle. She appreciates all the collaborations that have helped the Club get in the Black. The Club was also just named "Business of the Quarter". She thanked the community for this as well. They are planning to start with the Big Brothers Big Sisters program soon at the Club. The Club is looking for employees, 21 years of age and older. They are providing scholarships as well for part time employees. As Sharon announced earlier, she will be going to the Search Conference in Rochester, NY this week. The YEA Angel Tree is working with Chili's to provide coats for kids in the Club. She said that organizations are welcome to post flyers and brochures at Club as this will help build the community more. The Club currently is serving about 130/day, plus Showtime which brings in about 200. Their facility can be used for meetings, etc.

Lori Tilman promoted the walking groups. Currently, they have over 130 registered from APS. The schools may have competition between classes and schools, etc. Dance Otero will have fall holiday ball on December 6 at the Civic Center. There will be a catered meal for this semi-formal free event to celebrate all those who have participated in the Dance Otero program this year.

Eddie Reeves remind about the cessation classes and said the quit date for the class that starts in December will be January 2. She will be going next week to NJ for national certification as tobacco prevention specialist.

Janis Wimmer said the Wright House is currently full. They are currently looking for housing for their graduates who don't want to back to their original communities. They need a safe place to start over.

Hope Helms talked about the holidays coming up and COPE will need help providing food for families.

Kelly Knight said that the ICAN (Extension Service's nutrition education program) will be offering classes soon. They will welcome requests for classes from existing groups, etc. Call 437-0231 for more information or to schedule the classes.

Tracy Spencer said she takes back information from these meetings to put in a newsletter for Airmen and their families. However, she needs this information early because of the newsletter deadline. Please contact her directly with information for the newsletter (572-7754).

The next meeting will be December 4, 2007, 11:30am – 1:00pm. Sgt. Doyle Syling will present a program from his trip to China with Special Olympics.