

April 6, 2011 Sierra Health Council Monthly Membership Meeting

Meeting called to order 11:00am by Jennie Bierner, Chairperson/President

March Meeting Minutes Approved- Motion made to accept the meeting minutes by **Lori Medina** and seconded by **Valerie Two-Wolves**.

Treasures Report, MJ Dyke, Treasurer. The BOD decided not to requesting City funding for the next fiscal year due to lack of need. Steve Green suggested a sub-recipients letter and continued quarterly reports from SHC to the City Commissioners. He felt that this would increase our community visibility and help community to better understand what SHC is about.

Treasurer's Report Approved-Motion to accept treasures report by **Val Two-Wolves** and seconded by **Susan Garrison**.

Round Table Discussion (RTD)

Steve Greene asked if we had plans to hire an executive director, **Jennie** said we are still in the process of becoming a 501c3 and assessing what our needs are now, thus, not looking to hire executive director at this time. **Steve Green** also mentioned that the City has applied for a \$50,000.00 block grant that could be used partly for a Needs Assessment and Profile.

Jennie Bierner announced current Board of Director vacancies and asked those interested to submit resume and letter of interest to sierrahealthcouncil@gmail.com. **Christy Conklin** and **Juliet Sullivan** are possibly interested.

Reilly Hamil welcomed help with the website and the willingness to mentor or pass skills to others interested in updating the website and had the idea to start a SHC Google Group. Reilly announced that she and **Jane Greene** will be updating the current Service Directory starting in June and that *MyCommunityNM* won legislation to become the featured bilingual, online service directory for underserved New Mexicans.

Val Two Wolves said State and Federal employees are prohibited from participating in public discussion forums

Lori Medina –ISD office talked about the lack of staff from 8 to 5 and yet the people who are in need of ISD services keep rising. Office received a score of 100% on their quality control. Lori talked about the reduction of food stamps in place in New Mexico and the hardship for families concerning that. She said they are all watchful for the changes taking place in Medicaid. The ISD office maintains a small food and clothing bank and welcomes donations.

Susan Garrison-addressed the TBA new commercial kitchen and the state requirements to sell kitchen baked goods. Online certification classes for safe food handling are available. The first time you use the kitchen it is free, then there is a fee of \$10/hour. Kitchen courses will be offered. Farmers Market will be outside the kitchen on Tuesday and Saturdays 4-7 pm; Farmers Market in Ralph Edward Park is 8:30-11 am on Saturdays.

John Lentz-Paramedic First Responder Volunteer interested in doing community education. He and his wife are preparing to teach CPR classes.

Steve Greene-City Commissioner- spoke about the lack of state and federal funds and thinks TorC needs to help themselves and not be dependent on monies from such entities.

Dorcas Brem-Counselor family therapist with experience working with military families is interest in

volunteering with the health council and working on the financial committee.

Val Two-Wolves is retiring from Sierra County Vets Home as their Social Work Supervisor in November. Val has two clothing racks and other items to donate. Talked about TorC Free Cycle.

Christy Conklin-Head Start Coordinator- Has size 2 diapers she wants to donate. Vento Law was able to offer Head Start services to homeless families, giving them priority as well as SSI and TANF recipients. She is working on bringing a Roadrunner Food Bank Distribution Center to TorC. **Jennie Bierner** offered to ask the TorC Housing Authority if they had room for the distribution of food.

Tomasita- Family Caseworker at T or C Head-start introduced herself.

Pat Hamad-Social worker at Sierra Vista Hospital Mental health is running the CCSS program, offering nutrition and daily living support to individuals. She announced that their Behavioral Health Program rating with Optimum Health rose from 40 to 94%. Pat is also planning to start a business using her skills as a trained Mediator.

MJ Dyke- Social Worker at AppleTree Day Care-says cut backs are severe-fighting to help the families that are both working yet making slightly too much to qualify for programs that offer childcare assistance. AppleTree struggles with trying to work with families who can't afford to quit their job, but can't pay for daycare.

Jennie Bierner-FSS Coordinator for Public Housing-stated that she is working both programs for housing right now both the public housing FSS program and the section 8 FSS. Teen outreach program, TUPAC funding has not been released yet either. Jennie attended meeting at WNMU and felt positive about the feedback concerning the vocational training projected to come to our community. Parenting classes sponsored by Socorro mental health will be hosted in May (see website for info).

The Ability Center-Two representatives presented information about their program and is accepting referrals for home modifications to help residents who have special home needs so that they can receive funding or loans for such modifications.

Christy Conklin is collecting small personal hygiene items and stuffed animals to send overseas to vets. Also mentioned that we now have Hepatitis C treatment program @Ben Archer.

Jennie Bierner-TorC Housing Authority Family Self Sufficiency Coordinator is also collecting small hygiene items and clothing, specifically business attire, for individuals seeking employment who are in need of business clothing for interviews and job.

Business Meeting

1. Membership notified that April 16th, the **BOD will work on finishing application for 501c3 status.**
2. **Teen Wellness Forum will be postponed** until fall due to conflicting date with the date of Fiesta weekend. The membership discussed rescheduling the event during the fall school orientation and collaborating with the School District The rest of the year is very busy for parents, teachers and kids.
Christy Conklin moved that we postpone youth event, Reilly Hamil seconded motion.

Meeting adjourned at 1pm