

Sierra Health Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Members

May 4, 2011, 11:00 am

Truth or Consequences Civic Center, Truth or Consequences, NM

Jennie Bernier, SHC President, opened the meeting and presented the agenda for approval. A discussion of the Finance Committee was added to the Business section of the meeting and the Agenda was approved.

The minutes of the April meeting were approved with one correction, a clarification of the TBA Kitchen Shop hours. Jane Greene, Secretary, noted that the Roundtable minutes would be on the website (sierrahealthcouncil.com) within a few days of the meeting. It was agreed that in the future the notes be sent with the notice of the next meeting so they can be read ahead of time.

MJ Dyke, the SHC Treasurer, reported that there was no financial activity in the past month and the Treasurer's Report was accepted.

ROUNDTABLE

THE BOUNTIFUL ALLIANCE Susan Garrison reported that she is the Interim Kitchen Manager and will be attending classes in Las Cruces and will be offering classes here to prepare people to the New Mexico Food Preparers test that is required to use the commercial kitchen and sell food commercially. The next Food Safety class will be on May 17th from 5:00-7:00 pm and is free. She will also offer a class on Diabetic Food Preparation in May. Susan asked about the Financial Review Committee and said she would like to participate in the committee and would like to request financial assistance with the cost of canning jars and food for new kitchen entrepreneurs

MICHELE ALLARD Michele introduced herself; she is a recent graduate in social work and interested in learning more about what is happening in the community.

EXTENSION SERVICE Jessica Van der Veen, the Extension Service Nutrition Coordinator, will be teaching classes in 4 areas, nutrition, food safety, budgeting and food for families. Classes are available to groups of all ages and she can be reached at the Extension Service, 575-894-2375. She notes that the classes are good for families on food stamps as a way to stretch their food budget. She asked Susan about the TBA Farmer's Market program for food stamps and Susan reported that the Food Stamp 2-for-1 program, which gives customers \$2 worth of food for each \$1 of Food Stamps, will be available again this year.

HELP-NM Anita Petersen gave an overview of HELP-NM (Home Education Livelihood Program) which sponsors Head Start, the Migrant Worker's Program, and youth services throughout New Mexico. She works with the Sierra County Youth Services Youth One-Stop Shop that offers educational and employment assistance for eligible youth of 14-21 years. She pointed out that New Mexico law requires work permits for 14 and 15 year olds and noted that the program encourages and sets up community service volunteer opportunities for youth. Although funds for this year have been used, the new funding year starts on July 1st and anyone interested can call to get on the waiting list. Her office is in the Boys and Girls Club and She can be reached at 575-894-0077.

BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB Charis Miller announced that the schedule for summer meals will be out soon and that this year they will have dinner at the Club as well as lunch at the swimming pool park and at Coleman

Street. For more information about this or other programs you can call her at 575-894-8336.

TOPS Ari Cervantes said that they don't know if the program will be funded next year but they are looking for individuals to mentor youth with a focus on skill building. The program is located at the Boys and Girls Club and she can be reached at sierrateens@gmail.com.

MINISTERIAL ALLIANCE/SALVATION ARMY Dale Twyford invited people to join in the National Day of Prayer on May 5th. He announced that the Ministerial Alliance is now tracking the vouchers that police give out to people who are passing through the community and have an emergency. They currently give out about \$200 per month. He is also the new Secretary of The Bountiful Alliance and wanted everyone to know that they are working on getting basketball courts throughout the community.

NEW MEXICO VETERANS HOME Val Two Wolves said that the hiring freeze is still in place. Despite this, things at the Veteran's Home are going well and they are preparing for National Nursing Home Week. She announced that she will be retiring soon.

HOUSING AUTHORITY FSS PROGRAM Jennie Bernier said the FSS funding for next year is still uncertain. She is currently partnering with Domestic Abuse Intervention Center and Socorro Mental Health to offer a **Love and Logic Parent Class** on May 14th and 21st from 10 am – 3 pm. The cost of the class is \$20 which covers all materials, lunch for families on both days and child care for young children.

Jennie also announced that **Healthy Living with Chronic Conditions** class just began a new 6-week course at Hacienda Orgullo. This is a free program for anyone living with a chronic condition such as diabetes, heart disease, emphysema, weight issues, anxiety or wanting to stop smoking. The CDC recognized Sierra County's Healthy Living class last year for excellence. For information on the program call Lavonne Jewel at 575-894-1531 or Shirley Hopkins at 575-894-3871.

APPLETREE MJ Dyke said that they are still waiting to see if the Americore grant application was successful and that they are working with the Boys and Girls Club gearing up for the summer meal programs. She said the meals are free to anyone and will be offered Monday through Friday. Lunches will be from noon – 1 pm at 2 locations; dinner will be from 5 – 6 pm at 1 location.

SIERRA COMMUNITY COUNSELING CENTER A representative from the center said that they are currently operating in the community and working mostly with children. They need more information on community resources, especially childcare assistance, for their clients. For more information you can call them at 575-740-1223.

NM DEPT. OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION Chandra Majumdar from the Socorro Satellite Office is in Truth or Consequences on the 2nd Thursday of each month. Although they do work with all disabilities, because of current funding restrictions they are using an "order of selection" which currently means they accept only individuals with severe disabilities. Other who apply will be put on a waiting list for when additional State or Federal funds are available. For more information or to request an application call toll free to 1-888-901-7903 or 575-835-4243.

Jane Greene asked about the Roundtable notes which she is taking and whether these could be sent to the local newspapers for publication. There was some discussion but the decision was deferred to the Business section of the meeting.

Wendy Sager-Evanson, the former Health Council Coordinator, sent 2 items by email for the Roundtable. 1. The State Board for Mental Health has Infant CEUs available; and 2. Desert Haven Animal Refuge needs volunteers to walk dogs and help with the animals.

Linda Estavillo gave an overview of services that she is working on offering to people in transition in the community. She looks forward to working with programs like Vocational Rehabilitation and FSS at the Housing Authority so she can serve people who have recently transitioned into the workplace.

BUSINESS

Jennie announced that Christi Conklin from Enchantment Day Care/Head Start has joined the Board of Directors in May and that there is still one vacancy on the Board. If anyone is interested in joining the Board they should submit a letter of interest to sierrahealthcouncil@gmail.com.

The 501(c)(3) application is almost complete. The Activities section for the organization has been written by Reilly Hamil and includes Roundtable networking, community forums, conducting needs assessments, developing community profiles, keeping a directory of community resources, operating a health resource/drop-in center, Training, social marketing campaigns, communications through the website, newsletter etc. and Board of Director activities

The Teen Wellness Forum is being planned for the fall, perhaps to coincide with school opening. Please contact Jennie if you want to help plan and organize this event.

There was further discussion about putting the Roundtable notes in the local newspapers as well as on the website. Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED that the notes would be made available to the local newspapers provided individuals and agencies could ask that specific information not be included in the notes.

The meeting adjourned at 12:45 pm