

Sierra Health Council Meeting of the August 3, 2011

Board Members Present:

Jennie Shepperd, Reilly Hamil, Christi Conklin, Sabra Aldrete, Jane Greene

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Tom Hamil, Lori C. Medina, Terri Smith, Ari Cervantes, Anita Petersen, Dale Twyeffort, Val Two Wolves, Terri Markel, Laura McDonald, Linda Estavillo, Pat Hamad, Devin Thomas.

Jennie Shepperd opened the meeting at 11am and the agenda for the meeting was approved. Members reviewed and approved the minutes of the July meeting with 1 correction: Val asked that the wording of her report be amended. Jennie agreed to get that information from Val and pass it along to Jane. Jennie reported that a few copies of the financial report were available and asked members to share them. Next Jennie announced that our Annual Meeting will be held on September 7th at the next monthly membership meeting. Light snacks will be provided and members are asked to bring potluck items to share if possible. At this election all 7 board slots are up for election; officers will be elected by the new board members at their first meeting.

ROUNDTABLE

T or C Housing Authority-Ari Cervantes has a new job as FSS Coordinator for Section 8 housing at the T or C Housing Authority.

Workforce Investment- Anita Petersen reported that her work is focused on at-risk youth and that her office is in the Boys & Girls Club.

Head Start- Christie Conklin reported that they have full enrollment but are taking names to put on the waiting list.

New Mexico State Veteran's Home (NMSVH)-Val Two Wolves is 3 months from retirement but her position has not yet been posted. Interested persons should watch the SPO job postings site for further information as it becomes available. Candidates should have an MSW and must be licensed in New Mexico. The proposed new building has been presented to the Legislative Finance Committee and was favorably received.

Laura McDonald is the Staff Development Coordinator and reported that NMSVH is hiring for direct care positions. As the former TUPAC Coordinator, she noted recent success their work had with stopping smoking in the City of T or C-owned vehicles. She announced that there is a new regional and statewide TUPAC grant available to expand smoke-free policies. She suggested that the T or C Housing Authority might be interested in seeking this funding and requested help from the group in writing this proposal.

Ben Archer School Base Clinic- Terri Markel reported that they did 180 sports physicals and thanked everyone for their referrals. They have a Nurse Practitioner starting at the clinic soon and are interviewing for a new Pediatrician. Dental care will also be available at Ben Archer soon.

T or C Housing Authority (T or C HA)- Jennie Shepperd is the FSS Coordinator for Public Housing and reported that they have just finished a series of Financial Literacy and Homeownership classes that were well-received. These classes are open to everyone in the community. She also expressed an interest in writing for the TUPAC grant that Laura talked about. The Housing Authority wants become a smoke-free facility. T or C HA operates multiunit housing in 5 other cities across New Mexico. Jennie also reported that the TOP program has room for 50 teens and there are some slots still available.

Community member- Reilly Hamil, Sierra Health Council Board member, manages the SHC website and is a Nursing Instructor at CNM in Albuquerque. She welcomed members wanting to place announcements on the website to contact her. She also expressed an interest in working on the TUPAC grant Laura talked about.

Community member- Jane Greene is a Sierra Health Council Board member and is working on updating our Resource Directory which is a part of MyCommunityNM.org, a developing statewide directory. She asked for volunteers to work on the project and Pat Hamad and Laura Mc Donald said they would help. One of the primary goals will be to find ways to get agencies to update their own information.

Sierra Arts Council- Tom Hamil said he is interested in what the Health Council is doing. He is a former university professor and has a background in working with non-profits.

Community member- Devin Thomas is a member of the community who wanted to see what the Health Council is doing and expressed appreciation for the work that is done, especially for people with disabilities.

Sierra Vista Hospital- Terri Smith is a Case Manager/Social Worker at the hospital. She announced that they have a monthly cancer support group on the 3rd Wednesday of the month from 3pm-4pm. If anyone wants more information, call 575-743-1332.

Community member- Linda Estavillo is a community member who is working to start a 'transitional community' in Sierra County. She reported that she is no longer teaching GED classes for WNMU and was told the classes have been canceled. She is available for private tutoring on a sliding scale. Linda also handed out flyers on behalf of *Extension Service* for Jessica VanDerVeen, the Extension Service Nutrition Educator. They are having free classes on cooking and nutrition on Tuesdays from 10am-noon at the Special Events Center at the fairgrounds. For more info call her at 575-894-2375.

Community member- Sabra Alderete, Sierra Health Council Board member, reported on the Health Council's table at the National Night Out event at Ralph Edwards Park. We gave out healthy snacks and did a brief health needs survey of people who came to the table. At the end of the meeting we drew one survey as a winner for a Walmart gift certificate prize for people who completed the survey. She will have results from the survey available at a later date.

Income Support Division- Lori Medina had both good and bad news. The good news is that Sierra County's EBT audit was perfect despite the fact that they are short-staffed. The bad news is that there are no longer guards at the ISD office; people were dismissed without notice. There will be a new contractor for TANF SL Start will begin in NM on September 1st. More info about them and their NM links is available at <http://www.slstart.com>

Community member- Pat Hamad is a Licensed Bachelor's of Social Work and announced that she is no longer working at Sierra Vista Hospital counseling center. She spoke about New Mexico's Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program (HPRP) which assists people with up to 6 months of rent and possibly furniture. It is funded through stimulus funding. MFA oversees the funds and the Sierra County program is administered through Tierra Del Sol Housing Corporation, 575-882-3554.

Added 9/2/11 via email communication: Jessi VanDerVeen, due to issues with finding people who can attend during the day, the nutrition classes have been moved to Wednesday nights from 5:30 - 7:30 pm at the Event Center: 2953 S Broadway. If more people are interested, I would love to add multiple classes and locations.: Sierra County Nutrition Educator [\(575\) - 894 - 2375](tel:575-894-2375) [\(503\) - 481 - 1046](tel:503-481-1046)
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