

## 6/5/23 TAC Meeting Notes

Present: Sally Kennedy, Ashley Wilson, Mary Helminski, Andrea Phillips and Susanne Bryant.

### Public Comment:

- Candace Jones, PO Box 3112, Pagosa Springs – this committee has gathered a lot of information on public health and information and that gathering will continue for a lot of time. Clock is ticking. Commissioners are waiting on the recommendations from this committee, including programs, staffing, budget, grant writing, etc.

### County Manager Comments:

- Important for our committee to finalize the program recommendations.
- Spoke with Chad Eaton (Finance Director) on staffing, budget, etc. – structure will be similar to DHS. Will be looking for finance person to share between DHS and PH. Not sure what time split would be.

### Public Health Director Comments:

- Has met with WIC and Nurse Family Partnership liaison to determine support.
- Reached out to 2 TA providers – is reviewing many documents and will report back to committee.

### Committee Recruitment:

- Andrea – how much more work will be done by our committee?
  - All budget work, finalize programming,
- Andrea – if we added someone, would love Candace to be added. (She has time constraints that won't allow it)
- Susanne – adding 2 people would be difficult to bring up to speed.
- Andrea – will be heading to Arizona much this summer and won't be able to join in person, but will try to join by Zoom.

### DHS – Medicaid Changes Affecting Public Health - Isabel Vita/Heidi Martinez:

- Friday 6/1 was the first day that the state wasn't in the pandemic Medicaid system.
- DHS has shifted some caseloads to balance.
- State is sending out application for completion and then sending verification forms and allowing 45 days to complete. Difficult for elderly folks to complete up to 100 pages. Very convoluted with a lot of pages. If it's not signed (and the form is 30 pages longer), they bounce you off Medicaid.
  - Possible solution? Keep fighting to coordinate less paperwork.
  - DHS has some ability to assist people with the forms, but DHS staff isn't able to actually complete the form.
- Can we predict how many people will come off? No, but there's about 6900 people in our county that were on. Not sure how many will drop off.
  - Folks were locked in during the pandemic. But if they're not eligible now, they'll be taken off.

- There are 2 brokers in town who can assist them.
- They worked with SJBPH prior to the pandemic to coordinate benefits among the agencies.
- Are clients notified they're off Medicaid? Yes, they mail notices. State is on a campaign to text, phone and email to confirm client's mailing addresses.
- Does DHS do CHP? Yes.
- Determinations are done in waves. The first wave was just sent out.
  - SBJPH anticipates that November/December will be the biggest wave.
  - Coverage generally lasts for a year and then people need to reapply.
- Andrea – will need to consider sliding scale for the services provided for this.
- If SJBPH tests for cervical or breast cancer, then patient is covered. (We'll need to be sure we continue to offer this service.)
  - Must go to public health first, not their private medical provider.
- Andrea – what does DHS see the public health department doing with all this? Continue with the navigator. Have someone on staff who can empathize with people's frustrations with the system.
  - Colorado Peak – online application portal. DHS doesn't have access to this. The PH navigator should have a clear understanding of this portal.
- Sally – any other bizarre rules, besides the cervical/breast cancer, that might affect our department? Not sure.
  - Pregnant mother who goes on Medicaid (195% of poverty level) – babies born will get one year of Medicaid and automatically be put into WIC program.
  - Now qualifications are income-based.
  - Medicaid rarely covers if patient is out of state – only covers flight-for-life charges, but not follow-up care. Difficult for undocumented patients to get coverage unless life threatening situations.
  - Medical transportation reimbursements are no longer covered. State is aware of the problem.
- Health Navigator position is still here in Pagosa (Karen).
- As DHS learns more about the impact of all this, it would be great if they could share that info with Ashley.

#### WIC Application:

- BoCC will be voting on it tomorrow.
- Application is as complete as we can get it for now. OK with CDPHE to submit without budget information. Everything gets finalized at contract time.
- Could we have a staff person hired as the registered dietician but also to share position with other roles?
  - Susanne – would be good to look at diabetes education, sharing roles with other area hospitals?
  - Derek – what are certification requirements for registered dietitians? Colorado doesn't require any certifications other than 4 years of college with masters degree and internship.

- Could the PH department have an agreement with hospital that we'd offer the service for a fee? Yes, can do the same with nursing homes, detention center (who does that now?).
  - Could eventually have this service.
- Could be the same person as food safety inspections and food safety classes.
- Derek – how do we handle out-of-state people who don't get covered by CDPHE?
  - School district doesn't get reimbursed for Dulce children. They're trying to come up with a reciprocity agreement but it hasn't happened yet.
  - Should we have a conversation with the applicable New Mexico county? Not sure.
  - We should ask SJBPH how they handle that? Also ask Montezuma County.
    - What about the SUIT?
    - Local medical providers accept I.H.S.
    - Need to ask CDPHE on next call.
    - Should include on the fee schedule that they pay in advance.

#### Transition Timeline Update:

- What is “gathering input from residents” – some is happening now by talking with other county departments, Community Connections, Axis. Who else should we be talking to?
  - Healthy Archuleta results should be back by mid-July.
  - SJBPH assessment results should be back by mid-July.
  - Sally – do we have numbers for obesity in schools? We're lacking in chronic disease data.
    - We can ask the school district if this is something they track. There is one school nurse for the whole district. She tracks data on asthma inhalers but not sure if she tracks anything else. Ashley will ask.
- Andrea – we need to be looking at what programs need to be the core programs that will be in place in January and what are recommended for down the road (3-5 year goals).

#### Program Recommendations:

- Scheduling the next 3 weeks to do a deep dive on each program to determine shared programs and recommendations to Board of Health.
- Are we looking at setting fee schedule? Are fees set by the state? Need to check.
  - Vital statistics – fees are set by state.
  - Would be good to see the cost recovery percentage for each program.
- Should the health department have a communications person? We also need to discuss foundational capabilities that overlap across programs (communications, cross-training, etc.)
  - An initial org chart would be helpful to start working on.

#### Other Comments:

- Susanne – think about grants with nutrition components, especially about prevention for school-aged children and elderly for chronic illness prevention (cooking classes, grocery store shopping, etc.)