

Valencia County Hospital Project

Presented By:
Dave Pato



History



At the general election in 2006, the voters of Valencia County overwhelmingly approved the imposition of a mill levy of 2.75 mills to finance the cost of operating, maintaining and/or providing for a hospital/24 hour emergency healthcare facility in Valencia County, with 14,245 in favor to 4,438 opposed.



Collection of Mill Levy

- The State DFA imposed the mill levy beginning in property tax year 2007, and the Mill Levy expired in 2014.
- To date, the County has collected over \$26M to fund the operation and maintenance of a hospital/24 hour emergency healthcare facility.



Hospital Funding Act



Pursuant to the Hospital Funding Act, the County must transfer the mill levy funds for the costs of operating, maintaining, or providing for a hospital/24-hour emergency healthcare facility by means of a health care facilities contract

L. to enter into a health care facilities contract with one or more hospitals which agree to provide facilities to the sick of the county;

Health Care Facilities Contract



The hospital funding act defines a health care facilities contract as an agreement between *a hospital* and a county that provides for the payment by the county of all or a portion of the proceeds of a mill levy to the hospital in exchange for the agreement by the hospital to use the funds to make available certain limited services.

What is a Hospital?



A hospital is defined by the department of health regulations as a “facility offering in-patient services, nursing, overnight care on a 24-hour basis for diagnosing, treating, and providing medical, psychological or surgical care for three or more separate individuals.” 7.7.2.7(Z) NMAC 2019.

Multiple Attempts to Develop Hospital in Valencia County

- Rio Communities Health Care Facilities Contract (litigation and ultimately termination of contract)
- MOA with Belen (litigation)
- RFP for Hospital/24 Hour Emergency Healthcare Facility with Inmate Healthcare Subsidy (unsuccessful)
- RFP for Hospital/24 Hour Emergency Healthcare Facility (no response)



Community Needs

The residents of Valencia County are in dire need of expanded access to medical care. NMDOH has recognized that there are many areas of concern and areas requiring improvement in Valencia County.



Community Health Profile

Among those areas within which the County has been designated to need improvement are:

- infant mortality
- birth defects
- Children's asthma hospital discharges
- Cardiovascular Disease – Heart Disease Deaths



Community Health Profile



- Diabetes Hospitalizations
- Influenza and Pneumonia Deaths
- Unintentional Injury Deaths
- Motor Vehicle Crash Deaths
- Mental Health – Youth Injured in Suicide Attempt
- Mental Health - Emergency Department Admissions for Self Injury
- Suicide Deaths

Community Health Profile



- General Health Status: Percentage in Fair/Poor Health
- Health Insurance Coverage
- Unintentional Injury Deaths, Motor Vehicle Crash Deaths
- Mental Health – Youth Injured in Suicide Attempt
- Mental Health - Emergency Department Admissions for Self Injury

Improvement Needed, Cont'd



- Suicide Deaths
- Child Abuse and Neglect, General Health Status: Percentage in Fair/Poor Health
- Mental Health – Youth Seriously Considered Suicide

Community Health Profile

The need for expanded healthcare is further highlighted by the many areas for which the NMDOH has indicated there is reason for concern.



NMDOH Areas of Concern

Among the more serious areas of concern are:

- Life Expectancy from Birth
- Life Expectancy from Age 65
- Lung Cancer Deaths
- Pertussis



Services Provided at UNM HSC to Valencia County Residents (FY15)

In FY2015, there were 41,090 Valencia County patient visits at UNM Hospitals and Clinics, with 3,570 of those visits being charity care, 2,157 uninsured, and 35,363 compensated care.

Valencia County		NM	
QUICK FACTS			
Population, 2014 estimate	75,817	2,085,572	
Median household income, 2009-2013	\$42,206	\$44,927	
Persons below poverty level, 2009-2013	23.4%	21.3%	
Land area in square miles, 2010	1,666	121,298	
Persons per square mile, 2010	45.5	17	
Percent Unemployed (Sept. 2013)	7.8	6.8	
Sources: State and County QuickFacts, U.S. Census Bureau and Bureau of Labor Statistics			
High School Four-Year Cohort Graduation Rates			
County average, class of 2014	69.7%	69.3%	
Source: New Mexico Public Education Department			
Legislative Districts			
House		Senate	
Dist. 7 - Kelly Fajardo	Dist. 29 - Michael S. Sanchez		
Dist. 8 - Alfonso Baldonado	Dist. 30 - Clemente Sanchez		
Dist. 49 - Don L. Tripp	Dist. 39 - Ted Barea		
Dist. 50 - Matthew McQueen			
Dist. 69 - W. Ken Martinez			
Top 10 Causes of Death (2011-2014)			
	Valencia County	NM (rank)	
1. Cancer	156.2	147.8 (2)	
2. Heart Disease	151.6	151.0 (1)	
3. Unintentional Injuries	63.3	58.2 (3)	
4. Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease	59.3	46.3 (4)	
5. Cerebrovascular Diseases	46.3	31.0 (5)	
6. Diabetes	30.8	28.0 (6)	
7. Intentional Self-Harm (Suicide)	22.5	20.0 (7)	
8. Liver Disease	19.6	19.3 (8)	
9. Alzheimer's	16.6	15.9 (9)	
10. Respiratory, Influenza and Pneumonia	15.4	15.2 (10)	
Total Deaths (2014)	453.0	18,157	
Source: NM DSH Inpatient-Based Information System			
Licensed Health Professionals			
	2014	2015	
Medical Doctors	23	22	
Doctors of Osteopathic Medicine	3	5	
Physician Assistants	5	8	
Occupational Therapists	12	14	
Physical Therapists	21	22	
Dentists	14	13	
Pharmacists	156	157	
Registered Nurses	610	636	
Licensed Practical Nurses	93	80	
Certified Nurse Practitioners	3	25	
Certified Nurse Anesthetists	1	0	
Certified Nurse Specialists	4	4	
Certified Nurse-Midwives	1	0	
SELECTED UNM HSC ACTIVITIES IN VALENCIA COUNTY			
Patient Care			
- College of Nursing: Clinical rotations			
- Family and Community Medicine: Clinical consultations			
- Office for Community Health: School Kids Influenza Immunization Program (SKIP)			
Education			
- College of Nursing: Central Regional Educational Cooperative			
- NM Poison and Drug Information Center: Poison Prevention			
- Office for Community Health: Community Health Worker home visits and care coordination			
- Office of Diversity: Health Careers Academy, Pharmacy College Admission Test preparation (PCAT), Undergraduate Health Sciences Enrichment Program			
- Pediatrics/Prevention Research Center: Sexual Violence Prevention Technical Assistance			
- Pediatrics/Occupational Therapy: Treatment Foster Care Summer Camp and Fieldwork			
- Undergraduate Medical Education: Circuit riders, Practical Immersion Experience preceptors			
Telehealth			
- Pediatrics Center for Development and Disability (CDD): Clinical and educational programs			
- Pediatrics/Envision NM: Adolescent medicine			
- Project ECHO: Integrated Addiction/Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences, Hepatitis C, Peer Education Program, Endocrinology, Tuberculosis			
- Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences: IHS Center for Telehealth Excellence project			
Community Research			
- College of Nursing: "School Nurse" Perspectives on Culturally Competent Suicide Prevention for American Indian/Alaska Native Students in NM"			
- Internal Medicine: Comprehensive HIV Early Intervention Services in Central/Northwestern NM			
- Pediatrics: Developmental Care Continuity Program			
- Pediatrics/Envision NM: "The Initiative for Child Healthcare Quality"			
- Pediatrics/Prevention Research Center: NM Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey			
Services provided at UNM HSC to Valencia County residents (FY15):			
- 41,090 total patient visits at UNM Hospitals and Clinics			
- 3,570 Charity Care			
- 2,157 Uninsured			
- 35,363 Compensated			
- 572 county residents served at UNM Comprehensive Cancer Center			

Direction Forward



- After failing to secure a provider pursuant to either RFP, the Board of County Commissioners directed staff to work with UNM to discuss the challenges we have faced in bringing hospital to Valencia County.
- County Administration with the CEO of UNM Health System, and the Vice Chancellor for Clinical Affairs of UNM Health System, who recommended the development of an updated feasibility study.

Direction Forward (Cont'd)

The Board of County Commissioners and County Administration succeeded in securing a legislative appropriation to fund the feasibility study. Among other things, the feasibility study will examine the needed medical services and equipment, human resources, and project financial performance.



Direction Forward (Cont'd)



The Board of County Commissioners additionally has reached out to the NMDOH for clarification regarding whether it may utilize the hospital mill levy to support the operation and maintenance of a hospital under a campus or a remote campus of an existing hospital pursuant to NMDOH regulations. The County is awaiting a response from the NMDOH.

Direction Forward (Cont'd)



County Administration has worked with representatives from UNMH regarding the scope of services for the feasibility study, which scope the County will revise once we receive a response from NMDOH regarding whether the County may utilize the mill levy funding to support the operation and maintenance of a hospital under a campus or a remote campus of an existing hospital.

Direction Forward (Cont'd)



If the NMDOH advises that the mill levy may be utilized to support a hospital under a remote campus of an existing hospital, the providers will have greater flexibility and more options with respect to what they may be able to offer the residents of the County in exchange for receipt of the hospital mill levy funding.

Lessons Learned



- Approach should not be site-specific. Site specific approaches have divided both this Board and the community and resulted in litigation and unnecessary delay (Rio Communities, Belen)

Lessons Learned (Cont'd)

Community involvement and partnership building is critical in ensuring the facility will address community needs.



Lessons Learned (Cont'd)

Transparency and fairness to all interested providers is imperative.

