2018 New Mexico Legislature

Senate Memorial 44

Task Force Report and Recommendations

Legislative Health and Human Services Committee
October 11, 2018
Senate Memorial 44

- Requested the New Mexico Alliance of Health Councils convene a task force to “Identify steps to strengthen the structure, effectiveness, and sustainability of county and tribal health councils.”

- Task Force includes 30+ members: Health council members, NM Dept. of Health, UNM, NMSU, NM Public Health Institute, NM Public Health Assn., others
27-Year History of Health Councils

- Health Councils created by NM Legislature, under the 1991 Maternal & Child Health Plan Act, amended in 2007 to include tribes

- Mechanism for community-based health assessment, planning, and coordination

- Addressing local priorities: Access to care, diabetes, behavioral health, environmental health, etc.

- Plan and implement interventions, services

- $2.8 million in annual State funding of health council system (until 2010)

- 2006-2010 Health Council Evaluation by UNM & NMDOH
Health Council Evaluation

Functions/Outcome Areas

• Convening, mobilizing communities to improve health
• Health assessment and planning
• Coordination to identify gaps, reduce duplication
• Developing programs & services
• Policy development
• Leveraging resources
• Building partnerships, networks, & coalitions
• Communication, bridges with State agencies
Health Council Accomplishments:

Some Examples

- Established & built Health Commons facilities (Sandoval, Rio Arriba)
- Published bilingual health resource directories (all counties & tribes)
- Established Opioid Initiative with 50 organizations (Bernalillo Co.)
- Conducted community health assessment (Grant Co.) with 5,000 responses in six communities, used extensively by many organizations
- Led establishment of new school-based health centers
- Sponsored annual community health screenings (many communities)
- Provided training & education to thousands in parenting, smoking cessation, diabetes self-care, infant mental health, etc.
- Established rural transportation systems (Rio Arriba & Grant Co.)
- Created Wellness Institute with multiple health programs (Doña Ana Co.)
- Established substance abuse prevention programs
- Healthy Kids Programs (Guadalupe Co., Socorro Co., others)
- Created innovative, long-term Community Infant Program (Santa Fe Co.)
Funds Leveraged by Priority Area

Total: $3,499,164

- Fitness/Nutrition, $100,000
- Obesity, $190,550
- Diabetes, $323,250
- Teen Pregnancy, $87,067
- Access to Care, $788,125
- Substance Abuse, $648,480
- Interpersonal Violence, $403,000
- Suicide, $560,665
- *Other, $398,027
2000-2003 study: 27 NM Health Councils leveraged $27 million in a 3-year period

In 2000-2003, Health Councils brought to their communities an additional $27 million--$4 for every $1 provided by DOH in core funding.
**Health Council Evaluation**  
**Impacts of System Funding**  
*(Funding suspension, FY10 to FY11)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Intermediate Outcomes</th>
<th>FY10</th>
<th>FY11</th>
<th>Percent Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total funds leveraged</td>
<td>$2,402,205</td>
<td>$1,040,328</td>
<td>-56.7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discussions of emerging issues</td>
<td>939</td>
<td>156</td>
<td>-83.4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shared planning projects</td>
<td>1705</td>
<td>267</td>
<td>-84.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Councils working on policy change</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>-73.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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SM44 Recommendations

Structure

- Update MCH Plan Act Legislation
- One designated health council for each county and tribal community
- Each council has formal relationship with county or tribal governing body (e.g., MOU)
- Each council responsible for county/tribal Community Health Assessment and Community Health Plan
- Alternative health council organizational structures:
  1. Adjunct to county or tribal government unit
  2. Independent, non-profit organization
  3. Affiliation with other non-profit
SM44 Recommendations

Effectiveness

- Health Councils serve as hub of local public health systems, integrated with statewide public health system
- Clear delineation of health council roles, functions and expectations
- System capacity: Provide councils with training, technical assistance, staffing, coordination
- System evaluation & quality improvement: Focus on outcomes, best practices, data collection
SM44 Recommendations

Sustainability

- State investment: Core funding for paid coordinator for each health council
- State support: Training, technical assistance, coordination, evaluation, fiscal accountability
- Non-governmental support: NM Alliance of Health Councils, other entities
- Local investment: Financial & in-kind support
- Funds leveraged by health councils
Next Steps

• Restore integrated health council system

• Update MCH Plan Act to reflect current practice and public health system

• Restore State funding of health council system:
  • $1 million in 2019
  • Additional funds over 3-year period
For Additional Information

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