



Agenda

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TOWN HALL MEETING
Families and Friends Against Drugs
A Conversation About Community Health And Safety
Tuesday, October 29, 2013
Santa Fe Southside Library
6599 Jaguar Drive
5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

1. Welcome – Melissa Mendoza - 5 Minutes
2. Introductions – Terrie Rodriguez, Moderator - Youth and Family Services Director, City of SF
3. Generational Impact of Substance Abuse on our Community - 15 Minutes
Ambrose Baros, Educator and Dr. Yolanda Briscoe, Executive Director SF Recovery Center
4. Information on Community Initiatives – 15 Minutes
LEAD – City of Santa Fe – Sgt. Jerome Sanchez
La Familia – Case Manager Valentina Watson -
Drug Take Back, Santa Fe Opiate Safe – Santa Fe County – Rachel O'Connor
Santa Fe County Narcan Programs – NM State Dept. of Health – Melissa Heinz-Bennett
5. Treatment Availability - 15 Minutes
Brian Serna, Clinical Counselor, LPCC, LADAC and Dr. Rollin Oden, Medical Director
Santa Fe Community Guidance Center
6. Questions – 30 minutes
7. Follow up – 15 minutes

Interpreter for the hearing impaired available through the City Clerk's Office upon five days notice. All members of the LEAD Task force are invited and may constitute a quorum.

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MINUTES

The Families and Friends Against Drugs Town Hall Meeting was opened by Ms. Melissa Mendoza, coordinator for this meeting at 5:40 pm. The town hall was held at the Santa Fe Southside Library, 6599 Southside Library, Santa Fe, New Mexico. A sign in sheet is on file with the City Youth and Family Services Department.

Panel Members:

Sgt. Jerome Sanchez
Monica Ault
Ambrose Baros
Dr. Yolanda Briscoe
Valentina Watson
Melissa Heniz Bennett
Dr. Rollin Oden
Brian Serna
Terri Rodriguez, Staff Liaison

Others Present:

City Councilor Carmichael Dominguez
City Councilor Bill Dimas
City Councilor Patti Bushee
City Councilor Chris Rivera
City Councilor Ron Trujillo
City Manager Bryan Snyder
Police Chief Raymond Rael
Richard DeMella, Regional Juvenile Justice
Chris Sanchez, City Youth and Family Services Department

1. Welcome – Melissa Mendoza
Gloria Mendoza and her Mother – Founders of Families and Friends Against Drugs
Thank you extended to all in attendance and to Law Enforcement officials for being present.
2. Introductions – Terrie Rodriguez, Moderator - Youth and Family Services Director
Ms. Rodriguez welcomed all in attendance and extended thanks to the panel members present.
3. Generational Impact of Substance Abuse on our Community
Ambrose Baros, Educator and Dr. Yolanda Briscoe, Executive Director SF Recovery Center

Mr. Baros introduced himself; he is from Espanola, New Mexico. He shared how opiate addiction is affecting families. Opiate addiction affects a family as a whole. In the treatment program where he works, they deal with individuals from the ages of 5-18 and they share family situations where parents and grandparents have passed away from addictions. He stated that they want to help the children so they don't fall into that same path. Mr. Baros has personally experienced the loss of

family members due to addiction. In Espanola they are focusing on family intensive care management. An intensive program is layered and it is a need for these families. When there is an adolescent in treatment normally their parents are also battling.

Dr. Yolanda Briscoe: The reason I do this work? You take away the using and the drinking you have the beautiful person before they got lost in alcohol and drugs. The Santa Fe Recovery Center is here to welcome all families and provide them help. There are mothers and fathers that come in for help and ask, "what do we do?" The important thing is treatment. 30-day treatment is important but it is only a piece of the puzzle. They need to go to after care or intensive treatment; they match the appropriate level of care with the person and their needs. "I am here because I believe that treatment does work."

4. Information on Community Initiatives

- Det. Sgt. Jerome Sanchez: SFPD, Supervisor of Property Crimes Unit and member of the LEAD Task Force. Det. Sanchez reported that in property crimes they have not dealt with anyone who is not addicted to opiates. We are introducing a Law Enforcement initiative together with community stakeholders called LEAD, Law Enforcement Assistance Diversion Program to help these individuals receive treatment instead of being incarcerated. There is set criteria to be accepted in to this program. We need community support and more providers to be able to help and make this a successful approach.
- Monica Ault, works for the Drug Policy Alliance in Santa Fe. She explained the LEAD program (Law Enforcement Assistance Diversion). LEAD identifies low level drug offenders where probable cause already exists and it identifies them and connects them with services. It has been heard that the traditional systems don't always work, LEAD will help to keep the individual out of incarceration and follow the individual with services.
- La Familia – Valentina Watson, Case Manager
La Familia offers medical, dental and health care for the homeless. La Familia just started a program for woman who are pregnant that are addicted to opiates. We want to help them to insure a better pregnancy and outcome for the baby. The criteria for the women is that they have to be a La Familia patient, pregnant and that they will need to be under treatment with one of our providers; both individual and group therapy services.
- Drug Take Back, Santa Fe Opiate Safe – Santa Fe County – Rachel O'Connor, Director of Human Services

Ms. O'Connor talked about some of the initiatives that Santa Fe County has taken on. In 2007 we lost more people in NM due to drugs vs. vehicle crashes. We need public health initiatives to come forward to help our population. At Santa Fe County we developed a community group, *Santa Fe Opiate Safe* which includes many community organizations and educators and we meet monthly. We have a program called *Drug Take Back* which includes law enforcement from Santa Fe and surrounding rural areas where people can return their drugs safely. They can bring any drugs that they have in their homes so they won't hurt anyone. Santa Fe County has been doing this on a quarterly basis for the last 3 years. One thing we were seeing in the hospitals is mothers who are opiate addicted. We have tried to increase Santa Fe County Indigent Fund, we are trying to have service across the board. We have also tried working with the providers so they can provide wrap around services.

- Santa Fe County Narcan Programs – NM State Dept. of Health – Melissa Heinz-Bennett
Thank you to Rachel O'Connor for her efforts in Santa Fe Opiate Safe. In talking about the drug narcan – this medication will return life to somebody who is overdosing on opioids. Our death rate is 2nd in the nation. What has driven that ratio up since 2007 is the addiction to opioids. One of the important pieces is how to keep people alive and providing them service. Who should have naloxon? If there is anyone in risk of being addicted to opiates. Risks are taking medication that doesn't belong to them. The collaboration with Santa Fe County is to assure that naloxon is available to anyone who is in danger of an overdose. Ms. Heinz-Bennett provided the locations where naloxon is available. NMDOH collaborates with La Familia and provides them with the kit that teaches individuals how to take the naloxon. DOH is trying to administer these naloxon kits in all community health centers. It is also available through the La Familia Office for the Homeless. "We want to push for expansion of this life saving medication."

5. Treatment Availability

Brian Serna, Clinical Counselor, LPCC, LADAC

Dr. Rollin Oden, Medical Director Santa Fe Community Guidance Center

Dr. Rollin Oden is a Family Medicine physician by training and has been an anesthesiologist. He talked about why addiction is so tough. The Brain – Envision the brain → stem nerves → emotional center → the reward center. When we do things we like, chemicals get released in the brain, the main chemical is dopamine, it gives a feeling of satisfaction. The drugs of abuse cause huge release of dopamine. Once a person starts on drugs, the same pathway is activated and hard to get out of. (Visual description of use and effect on the individual presented by Dr. Oden). It takes a long time to fall in to drug abuse and trying to come off drugs is even harder. In the US we have methadone and saboxin, most of medication assisted treatment is associated with these two drugs. Methadone looks like morphine in the middle of the brain, you can take it by mouth, it lasts a long time. Saboxin doesn't fully activate, it is mixed with narcan. The combination of the two drugs makes saboxin safer, the person takes it under the tongue. Buprenorphine is a semi-synthetic opioid that is used to treat opioid addiction in higher dosages, to control moderate acute pain in non-opioid tolerant individuals in lower dosages and it acts to satisfy the brain to prevent withdrawals and decrease the craving. For those who cannot do abstinence, medication can help. Saboxin was authorized in 2000, the idea was to move it in to community physician offices. There is such a need and there is a huge waiting list for use, but by law there are a low number of patient's providers who can administer and treat.

Brian Serna, Clinical Counselor

What can families do when they have a person who is addicted? I am here because I am from Santa Fe and I know Ms. Mendoza and her commitment to help. I am involved in an approach called CRAFT, consulting and training people so they know how to deal with addiction and treatment. Why do people not change in general? When someone is addicted their brain is working against them, their brain is tricking them to continue using. Fear is not a motivator, we don't want them to hit bottom. Fear and punishment is not a good motivator for addicts. What helps these people change? Love and hope. If you do tough love as they say, "I don't want to see you until you get sober", that is not helpful. If they have in their minds that they can't get clean and sober they give up. It is important to strengthen the connection with the family. When an individual receives support, this is motivation to get the individual in to treatment and to help them change. In working with families there are many difficulties in identifying where there is a time when the person isn't high on their addiction. You don't give them money, you don't enable them; you give them love and time to help

them believe in themselves. One way to show care is not to argue, communication and patience is so important. Even when they get in to treatment it is not over, it is a process. Treatment \leftrightarrow Relapse – this is a difficult process for the family to deal with. Don't be afraid to talk about drugs and alcohol. When you are talking to the addict, ask them about their drug use, their alcohol use, ask them how they are struggling. When you come across as a concerned person, it shows the care.

Ms. Rodriguez Opened Discussion to the Public:

Questions – 30 minutes

Councilor Bill Dimas

Thank you to the panel members for being here today. So much of what has been discussed tonight I have experienced personally, I am not only a City Councilor, I am a father. My daughter was an addict from the age of 13. Councilor Dimas explained the addiction history of his daughter leading to her death. It doesn't matter what family you come from, when you have someone who is addicted, you don't know how to deal with it. You try tough love, you stop giving them money, you do all that you can to help them. Councilor Dimas lost his daughter 2 ½ years ago. There are parents in this room that are going through the same thing. We do all we can for our loved ones. When I got the call from the Santa Fe Police Department that my daughter had died, it was the worst moment of my life and my greatest loss. There is nothing harder than losing a loved one. Saboxin was hard to get at the time, it was too expensive, Medicaid didn't cover it. Message to the parents: Be strong, it isn't always easy but it is something that we all need to do; love works. City Councilor Dimas explained the proposed resolution that he will have introduced with 6 co-sponsors and invited the public to attend the city council meeting on Wednesday, October 30, 2013.

Resolution bringing forward to the City Council; we have such a drug abuse problem in the City of Santa Fe. We have a lot of drug traffickers out there, they are killing our kids and making a profit. I am proposing tomorrow at the City Council together with 6 of my fellow city councilors the following.

- 24 Hour Hot Line to report Drug Trafficking
- Incorporate this with the Neighborhoods and help them identify how to report through the 24-7 hot line.
- We need to have the District Attorney's office support to prosecute these drug trafficking cases when they come before them.
- Seek legislative support for mandatory sentencing. If it is a second or third offense you can give them mandatory jail time. We need to get these people off the street.
- We are asking for the Santa Fe Police Department; (it is already in place), to provide drug and alcohol programs in our schools again.
- To have persons driving in the day through our neighborhood through their official jobs, i.e., PNM, Gas Company, Roofers, etc., delivery people; give them the hot line number so they can report and unusual situations.

At some point, when funding is available, we should re-establish our Narcotics Unit at the Santa Fe Police Department. Due to the cost, it is not included in the resolution.

Q: Are you worried that it would just target the users?

A: Councilor Dimas said if we don't have it the drug traffickers are still out there. It was noted that you can usually identify or see a dealer and neighborhood watch is very important. Councilor Dimas said that there will be press releases and training to help identify these individuals. We have a lot of drug traffickers who are drug addicts and they are using our kids to run the drugs for them.

Councilor Bushee said it is commendable to divert from incarceration and going in to treatment. Councilor Dimas referred back to the goal of the LEAD task force and putting this program in to effect.

Brian Serna:

In 14-15 years I have been treating addicts who have come to me because they have been arrested. We want to steer them in to treatment instead of incarceration. If Law Enforcement is on board to get these individuals in to treatment, this is a step to recovery.

Ms. Ault said that LEAD is not for big time users, it is on a referral basis from Law Enforcement. LEAD will not give drug peddlers services. Sgt. Sanchez said that part of the criteria is that if they are in possession of less than 1 gram of opiate, they have to be 18 years old, they have to be amenable to diversion. This is not just a way to get out of jail, they have to agree to treatment. They cannot be involved in any human trafficking. This is a city program, we would like to expand. Sgt. Sanchez will continue on this mission and speak to our legislative delegation.

Ruben Lovato, Citizen: I attended tonight and want to see who is involved from the Santa Fe Public Schools. We need people from the public schools who know how to work with these kids. Is there a way that any juvenile can fit in to these programs? Sgt. Sanchez said that some of these students aren't going to be eligible for the LEAD program and they want to be part of that solution. We need ideas on how to help them.

Q: It was asked where the presence of the SFPS is with our children. It does not seem that anything is being done in the schools.

Correct that statement, we have a huge SFPS initiative, we have children and youth in SWAT teams.

Shelley Mann-Lev, Santa Fe Public Schools (SFPS) – She is the Prevention Coordinator for the SFPS and they are very committed to supporting the families and kids in the SFPS system. For 5 years they have had Project Success utilizing (Student Assistance Counselors) as they do not have drug and alcohol counselors in schools. The funding ended last year. There is a need, not only in high school but in other grade levels. The process of addiction starts a lot younger than high school age. Addiction starts very early in our community. Even though we have lost funding, we still have those services in place, we train teachers, we train staff and we have a drug task force. Training at the elementary level in schools has not taken place. Training has been for Administrators and at a teacher's request. Prevention curricula start in the 2nd grade. They also receive DWI training from Santa Fe County which helps to do the two sessions in drug alcohol education. Our law enforcement is so important and we work with them in so many ways. We wish they were the educators on drug and alcohol but we need them out in the community in different ways. There are many things going on with SFPS and Prevention Alliance. We are working with the city on a transitional program as well. SFPS is very committed to helping defeat the widespread drug addiction problem.

Chris Sanchez, City of Santa Fe – We are working with kids who have been suspended based on their drug addiction. We fund 34 different programs through the City that deal with substance abuse, anger management and offer many other wrap around services. What are we doing for the kids that are already disconnected? Some of those kids are already on the juvenile trail. What do we do to help those kids. The alternate school will be in place by January 2014 and we hope to get these kids back in school and off the streets.

Captain Mendoza, Santa Fe Sheriff's Department – We see the problem as the SFPD does in battling the crimes within the county and we are looking for solutions to help with this problem. I am a member of the Corrections Advisory Committee for Santa Fe County and a member of the LEAD program. We support services in the jail and for those who need services when they get out. Over dose deaths have increased. It is troubling to see repeat offenders, sometimes we don't know how to help them; we need options so we can give them hope so they can become productive citizens. As a citizen, I am from a family who has substance abuse issues. We can arrest all the drug users, we can enforce the law, but it is important that the community demand resources and services to address this problem. It is no longer just a law enforcement program, it is a community problem. We need more options, we have great resources here tonight, but we need money for more substances abuse services.

Ms. Mendoza: Does the county and city work together on the 24-7 hotline?

Chief Rael: Yes, we communicate very well with other governmental agencies and we have a close relationship. There may be some judicial concerns, but we work together to share information and resources. With Region 3, we have 5 people assigned to work with the city of Santa Fe and we collaborate with Federal, State, County and other agencies. We also have funding and work closely with the DEA and FBI. We have picked up on five major drug traffickers in our city who are bringing in oxycodone. This is a bigger problem for just local Law enforcement; it takes the community involvement and it takes more providers to help with services. Police Chief Rael would like to have a Narcotics Division to address these important matters but that takes funding which they don't have. If we work together with the resources we have we can all make it better.

Audience Person (1): – Addict – Drug Court – I was a drug addict since I was 12. I lost someone to heroine. I came out of prison in 2009 and I was in treatment and I relapsed. I have never seen so many young people on drugs, the young people don't understand HIV and they are using the same needles. I have been in a lot of states and this is the worst I have seen. They are moving heroin through a lot and fast. I have two children who went to SFPS, they have never been taught about drug prevention, young people are being prescribed oxycodone. Women at the jail in the pod, are users and sharing the same needle. The drug dealers are making offers to our kids; I have seen about 5 over doses and I tried to help them survive. I hear from my own kids that there are kids who are addicted and can't receive service. LEAD sounds great, drug court has helped me in my life, If I didn't have that help I would be back in prison. Kids think that if they are on heroine, that they are in the in-crowd.

Audience Person (2): Santa Fe Magistrate Drug Court – I use to drink and drive, and I now know what I have been doing and how it was affecting my children. I have 6 kids, as a parent I am the one at home and need to teach my kids. With the help and direction of the drug court I am a better parent and there to set a good example for my kids.

Donita Sena and Judge Segura brought individuals in from the Santa Fe Magistrate Drug Court to share their experience.

Ms. Mendoza expressed her thank you to these individuals who provided testimony tonight. Thank you. I am disappointed that there is no one from the Santa Fe press/media here tonight. They don't care about what is important. I am tired that they are not reporting on the health and safety of this community. The people from up north are coming to Santa Fe to buy their heroine. The shop lifting and burglary then take place in Santa Fe. Ms. Mendoza urged the community to send a letter to the New Mexican in support of this effort to combat drug addiction. The publicity would help to alert the drug dealers that the community is working together. They are doing heroin in mid-school and high school. Maybe it will just take us together to make this work; we were drawn here for a reason, and we need to organize and go to

the legislature, get that money for the programs and treatment that is needed. I want to make a difference for the future of our children and my grandchildren. Thank you.

Follow up

Councilor Bushee asked about funding. How can the city be creative and be specific. What are the needs in drug court; at what level can we start at?

Judge David Segura, Magistrate Judge – We have one of the premier drug courts not just in the state but in the nation and working with Donita Sena we strive to help. The funding started years past with federal funding; we are starting the push with our state legislators to request funding. If we don't get funding in 8 months, we will have to shut down our program. We can keep providers busy if drug court can stay alive. There is nothing worse than having a family member come and beg for help when you don't have the resources to help them with. There is a dire need for inpatient programs. We need to get them clean before we can provide them service. Judge Segura did not have dollar amounts available and said that he would provide an update to Councilor Bushee.

Dr. Oden

Cost for medication assistance treatment – 2012 NM Medicaid did not pay for substance abuse treatment. Under the Affordable Care Act there will be funding for substance abuse. We have a great deal of individuals who we see who have no means of paying. A lot of clients come out of jail, they have no jobs, they have no money, and they can't pay for treatment.

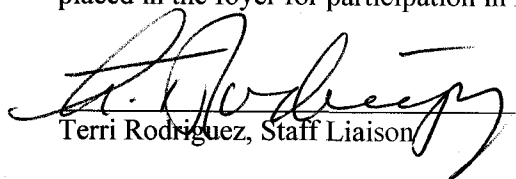
Rachel O'Connor

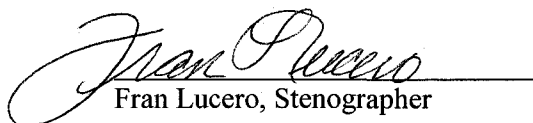
There is always a need for funding for treatment, we have money at Santa Fe County – if you know of anyone who needs services I can be contacted at 992-9842. There are also other services that are needed such as housing. Many people who are addicted are on the streets and they cannot access treatment and housing. Rachel also has a list of saboxin treatment centers and made them available to the audience.

DOH representative made the statement that the State office of Medicaid – Human Services Department is talking to detainees leaving jail about Medicaid. They will be automatically qualified. ACA and Centennial Care will also be available under presumptive eligibility for those leaving jail. The state office of Medicaid will make the announcement on presumptive eligibility.

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (also known as the Affordable Care Act) envisions a simple and streamlined enrollment process for Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), Basic Health, and the premium credits that will help consumers purchase coverage through the exchanges. The Affordable Care Act allows—and in many cases requires—that states take steps to dramatically ease the enrollment process for consumers. Automated eligibility and enrollment systems will be an important part of that process, but there are other tools states can use.

Ms. Rodriguez expressed her thanks to the Panel Members, to staff and to the members of the Audience who took interest in attending tonight's town hall. She invited everyone to sign the sheets of interest placed in the foyer for participation in future meetings and in areas of interest.


Terri Rodriguez, Staff Liaison


Fran Lucero, Stenographer