

TORRANCE COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Resolution No. 2003- 39

Introduced by:
Vange Peña-Jenks

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE TORRANCE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS RECOGNIZES THE IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY THE TORRANCE HEALTH COUNCIL TO THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF FAMILIES AND CHILDREN OF TORRANCE COUNTY.

WHEREAS: The New Mexico Legislature enacted the county Maternal and Child Health Plan Act in 1991;

WHEREAS: The Torrance County Board of County Commissioners appoints, on an annual basis, membership of the Torrance Health Council in response to provisions of the statute in 1991;

WHEREAS: The council has continued its mission to improve the quality of daily living for all Torrance County residents through shared services, collaboration, and enhancement of health and social service programs;

WHEREAS: The council has maintained administrative oversight for the following programs and services:

- Coordination of activities in accordance with the County Maternal and Child Health Plan Act
- Prenatal and perinatal care coordination for women and children
- Information and Referral Services
- Medicaid-on-site-application assistance and outreach education
- Transportation services to the un-insured and under-insured

WHEREAS: The council, since 1991, has facilitated a comprehensive community planning process which has led to a county-wide assessment that provides a detailed overview of population, trends, and matters of concern to community residents, information on county health indicators, barriers and challenges to accessing care in Torrance County, lists of services available and identification of services needed;

WHEREAS: The council has demonstrated its effectiveness by raising over \$6 million worth of resources through grant writing efforts;

WHEREAS: The proposed cuts will decimate the safety-net services that have been identified as filling critical health care needs and gaps in services in Torrance County and for which alternative funding is difficult to obtain;

WHEREAS: The proposed cuts would eliminate a comprehensive grassroots process to address community issues that spans 14 years and encompasses more than 3,080 volunteer service hours;

WHEREAS: The proposed cuts would severely fragment the process for residents to have county officials hear their needs, would create a loss of council integrity and structure to address health and social needs of Torrance County residents, and would lose a mechanism for providers to bring issues to bear and network;

WHEREAS: The proposed level of support for the work of community health planning councils for FY 05 is far below the minimum needed to accomplish essential health council functions of assessment, planning, coordination, and evaluation, and will result in losses of funding of approximately four times the actual proposed cuts; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Torrance County Board of County Commissioners urges the New Mexico Department of Health and the Legislature of the State of New Mexico not to implement the proposed funding cuts to the Maternal and Child Health and Community Health Improvement contracts.

Signed, at Estancia, Torrance County, New Mexico, this the _____ day of _____, 2003.

Charles Kelly Jr _____ 12/17/03
Commission Chair Date

Dito Chavez _____ 12/17/03
Commissioner Date

Jim Frost _____ 12-17-03
Commissioner Date

Paul Ayer _____ 12/17/03
County Manager Date



Attest:
Sandra Gammillo _____ 12/17/03
County Clerk Date