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AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH; ENACTING THE COUNTY AND TRIBAL HEALTH COUNCILS ACT; REPEALING THE MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH PLAN ACT.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.--This act may be cited as the "County and Tribal Health Councils Act".

SECTION 2. PURPOSE OF ACT.--The purpose of the County and Tribal Health Councils Act is to improve the health of New Mexicans by encouraging the development of comprehensive, community-based health planning councils to identify and address local health needs and priorities.

SECTION 3. DEFINITIONS.--As used in the County and Tribal Health Councils Act:

A. "board" means the board of county commissioners of a county or leadership of a tribe;

B. "department" means the department of health;

C. "health council" means a county or tribal health council;

D. "jurisdiction" means a county or a tribe; and

E. "tribe" means an Indian nation, tribe, pueblo or chapter located within the boundaries of the state.

SECTION 4. COUNTY AND TRIBAL HEALTH COUNCILS--
DESIGNATION.--

1 A. Residents of a jurisdiction may create a county
2 or tribal health council to carry out the provisions of the
3 County and Tribal Health Councils Act; provided that:

4 (1) a board shall recognize only a single
5 health council for its jurisdiction; and

6 (2) two or more boards may collaborate to
7 recognize a common, single health council representing two or
8 more jurisdictions.

9 B. A board shall recognize only a county or tribal
10 health council whose members represent a diverse spectrum of
11 community interests, including individuals and public,
12 private and nonprofit entities.

13 C. Members of a health council shall elect from
14 among themselves a chair for a term designated by the health
15 council.

16 D. Health council members shall not be paid, but
17 they may receive per diem and mileage expenses as provided in
18 the Per Diem and Mileage Act.

19 **SECTION 5. HEALTH COUNCIL FUNCTIONS.--**

20 A. A health council shall prepare a community
21 health plan, updated at regular intervals. A health council
22 shall report its community health plan to the board and to
23 the department.

24 B. Each community health plan shall include:

25 (1) a county or tribal health assessment and

1 inventory of health resources;

2 (2) identification of health priorities
3 determined through independent, community-based planning
4 processes; and

5 (3) strategies and resources to address
6 health priorities.

7 C. A health council shall:

8 (1) monitor health and health care programs
9 and services in order to identify potential gaps and to
10 reduce potential duplication;

11 (2) collaborate with other entities to
12 develop programs, networks, partnerships and coalitions as
13 necessary to improve health;

14 (3) advise the board in its jurisdiction and
15 other entities regarding policies that affect health;

16 (4) facilitate communication among local
17 jurisdictions, state agencies and other entities; and

18 (5) identify additional public and private
19 resources to improve health in its respective jurisdiction.

20 SECTION 6. DEPARTMENT--POWERS AND DUTIES.--The
21 department shall:

22 A. in consultation with health councils, develop
23 benchmarks, expectations and mechanisms to ensure the
24 long-term viability of health councils;

25 B. in collaboration with universities, other state

1 agencies and other public health entities, provide training,
2 technical assistance and other supports to health councils;

3 C. in collaboration with other entities, develop a
4 system to evaluate the effectiveness of health councils and
5 the gathering of necessary evaluation data;

6 D. administer funding to support the work of the
7 health councils, including local health council staffing,
8 training and technical assistance, and monitor and evaluate
9 contracts for funding; and

10 E. adopt and promulgate rules as necessary to
11 carry out the purposes of the County and Tribal Health
12 Councils Act and to strengthen community-based health
13 planning and self-determination.

14 SECTION 7. REPEAL.--Sections 24-1B-1 through 24-1B-7
15 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1991, Chapter 113, Sections 1 through 7,
16 as amended) are repealed. _____

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