



Agenda

DATE 6/19/13 TIME 3:02pm

APPROVED BY Chris Sanchez

RECEIVED BY [Signature]

CHILDREN AND YOUTH COMMISSION MEETING

Tuesday, June 25, 2013

Councilors' Conference Room

City Hall, 1st floor

200 Lincoln Avenue

6:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes: May 28, 2013
4. New Business:
 - a. Discussion regarding the Request for Qualifications for a Strategic Planner
 - b. Discussion regarding agenda items for the Summer Retreat
5. Old Business:
 - a. Citizen Schools Update
 - b. Update on Warehouse 21
6. Comments from the Chair and Commissioners
7. Report from Staff:
 - a. Update on Renewal of Contracts and next steps
 - b. Update on Resolution regarding the proposed transitional education pilot program.
8. Matters from the Floor
9. Adjournment

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN NEED OF ACCOMMODATIONS, CONTACT THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE AT 955-6520, FIVE (5) WORKING DAYS PRIOR TO MEETING DATE.

**CHILDREN AND YOUTH COMMISSION
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June 25, 2013**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Cover Page | | 1 |
| Call to Order and Roll Call | Meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Chair Sue Anne Hermann. A quorum was declared by roll call. 2 Excused absences. | 2 |
| Approval of Agenda | Ms. Lefrak moved to approve the agenda as presented, second by Mr. Multari, motion carried by unanimous voice vote. | 2 |
| Approval of Minutes, May 28, 2013 Corrections: Page 1 - Chris reported that according to Lisa – according to the Executive Director of Citizen Schools... Page 3 - It was mandatory for the students to participate so the loss will be heavily impacted with this program loss. <i>[as the loss would be heavily felt]</i> 2 nd Paragraph: The commissioners shared the concern that there is not a board at Warehouse 21. <i>[are only 3 board members at]</i> The Chair did reiterate that the Commission/City of Santa Fe should not assume the finaneial responsibility for these organizations based on their financial status. <i>[sustainability]</i> Page 4: The Commission needs to evaluate what emphasis should be bestowed upon these organizations. | <i>Ms. Lefrak moved to approve the minutes of May 28, 2013 as amended, second by Mr. Multari, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.</i> | 2 |

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| | | |
|---|--|-----|
| <i>[funding priorities.]</i> | | |
| New Business | | |
| a. Discussion regarding the request for qualifications for a Strategic Planner | Informational | 3-4 |
| b. Discussion regarding Agenda items for the retreat. | | |
| Old Business | | |
| a. Citizen Schools Update | Informational | 5-6 |
| b. Update on Warehouse 21 | | |
| Comments from the Chair and Commissioners | None | 6 |
| Update on Resolution regarding the proposed transitional education pilot program | Informational | 6 |
| Matters from the Floor | None | 6 |
| Adjournment | There being no further business to come before the Children and Youth Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm | 6 |
| Signature Page | | 7 |
| Exhibit A | New Mexico VOICES for Children Report | |
| | | |
| | | |

MINUTES

CHILDREN & YOUTH COMMISSION MEETING

June 25, 2013 - 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm

CITY COUNCILOR'S CONFERENCE ROOM

1. The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Sue Anne Herrmann at 6:00 pm, City Councilors Conference Room. By roll call a quorum was declared.

Present:

Sue Anne Herrmann, Chair
Dolores Fidel
Michael Multari
Thomas Bustamante
Joanne Lefrak

Not Present

Ernestine Gallegos de Hagman
Jill Reichman

Others Present:

Terrie Rodriguez, Director, Youth & Family Services Department
Chris Sanchez, Children and Youth Program Manager
Jennifer Griñé for Fran Lucero, Stenographer

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. Lefrak moved to approve the agenda as presented, second by Mr. Multari, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: May 28, 2013

Page 1 - Chris reported that according to Lisa – according to the Executive Director of Citizen Schools...

Page 3 - It was mandatory for the students to participate so the loss will be heavily impacted with this program loss. *[as the loss would be heavily felt]*

2nd Paragraph: The commissioners shared the concern that there is not a board at Warehouse 21. *[are only 3 board members at]*

The Chair did reiterate that the Commission/City of Santa Fe should not assume the financial responsibility for these organizations based on their financial status. *[sustainability]*

Page 4: The Commission needs to evaluate what emphasis should be bestowed upon these organizations. *[funding priorities.]*

Ms. Lefrak moved to approve the minutes of May 28, 2013 as amended, second by Mr. Multari, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

4. New Business

a. Discussion regarding the Request for Qualifications for a Strategic Planner

A draft was distributed to the Commissioners for review. Correction cover page: Reflect Title as Strategic Planner. Chris stated that the background summary and qualifications were written in a broad perspective this way it would give the Commissioners and opportunity to come back and define if needed. The Chair did comment that it was over-ambitious for 6 hours and the descriptors would need to be prioritized based on what the expectations are. **Chris recommended that the Commissioners take the description with them, send an e-mail to him with any additions or deletions.**

b. Discussion regarding Agenda Items for the Retreat

Mr. Multari asked Chris to reiterate what the goal would be for the 2-days. Chris provided the Commission with a report from VOICES for Children. (Exhibit A) Chris stated that this could be a guiding foundation for the Commission in terms of what they should focus on. We rank 50th of all the states for taking care of children. Chris made reference to paragraph 4 where it references that the recession is to blame for some of the drop to 50th. New Mexico's child poverty rate continues to increase, especially for young children. Paragraph 5 states; "While investments in young children are essential to improving poor outcomes, these economic indicators tell us that we also need to invest in working parents." That is a significant issue; in looking at the stats most of the highest percentages are from single home families, mostly female who don't have a high school or GED in their family. Page 6 states; "More than 60 percent of our children are not attending preschool and 22 percent of our children live in families where the head of the household lacks a high-school diploma. These children will already be behind when they start school and they'll be unlikely to catch up." Chris stated that we do fund some of those programs and we need to get ourselves more involved in what is out there in the community with the pre-schools.

Mr. Bustamante asked Chris if he felt it was a lack of awareness since we do have these programs. Chris said yes, the question is how we reach out to these families in the community to let them know we have these programs available. Page 5 indicates the rankings and the areas rated are; Economic Well-Being, Education, Health and Family and Community. In looking at our mission and the programs we provide in the City it falls under many of these categories. The Chair asked if the numbers could be pulled from the city or the county. Chris said that he can pull it from Santa Fe County, the actual report does have the county breakdown. Included in this document is the 2013 Kids Count Profile – New Mexico (*The Annie E. Casey Foundation*). Chris is very hopeful that with the varied statistics and categories it will provide good direction for where the Commission can focus their energy during this retreat. One comment shared with Ms. Reichman is; "how can we as a commission track some of these numbers for us?" We could then know of the impact we are or are not making with the funding provided to these organizations. There is a great deal of commitment from the community we need to know how to strengthen our programs

to reach our service goals. (The report itself is approximately 65 pages).

Mr. Multari reflected on the four indicators mentioned above and stated that the commission funds in all of these areas; difficult decisions will need to be made when the leverage is placed on if we can do all three or four. How will the community feel if we were to select one or two of the indicators. Mr. Multari asked for guidance from Chris to know what direction he would like to see the Commission go in. The Chair noted that it may not only be the money aspect, what other role can the Commission fulfill that could make a big impact in one of the four areas. Chris said that he knows they cannot solve this problem by themselves on a \$1 million dollar budget, but they could combine resources. Examples: Looking at the Regional Juvenile Justice Board, Santa Fe County, State entities and our Commission; all of these together can make a difference. Partnerships are important and re-aligning services will be very beneficial. This type of community partnerships will provide the strength to go to the New Mexico Legislature and/or Foundations for funding.

Ms. Lefrak reiterated that an important part of the retreat agenda should be what are the needs and where is the biggest impact. Mr. Bustamante added; how do we measure? Mr. Bustamante also suggested inviting Joohee from the Santa Fe Community Foundation to talk about the findings that they have identified.

Discussion was held regarding the steps-to-be-followed on updating the strategic plan and question asked on if it should be a new document. The Chair asked Mr. Multari for his input. Mr. Multari stated that personally he feels that the scope of work for the Commission has not changed since 2007; the priorities are becoming clearer as to what direction the commission should move forward in. In terms of the work it was suggested they revisit the document but not in any way revise it in terms of trying to fit what we are facing now. If we are reminded of what we did and then try to figure out if we want to narrow from that the focus. I don't think we are being asked to broaden our scope, it would be easier to look at that document based on what we have and narrow it down. Chris agreed that in review of the document some great work was put in to that and if they could use it as a template and focus in to some core areas it could be done in the 2-day retreat. The Chair said that the break-down occurred when they did not reach the outcome analysis. Mr. Multari said that once they are in the review process of the needs, maybe select one of those needs and say, there is the framework, let's keep the integrity of what we are asking; either the documentation to have proof in the work of what is being accomplished instead of looking at four or five areas. Taking direction from Chris will be very important. "The integrity of the Strategic Plan is very solid;" commissioners agreed with Mr. Multari. Chris said that his hopes is that the RFQ will be processed quickly and the Strategic Planner gets hired and he/she can participate in the strategic plan process. The Strategic Plan has been provided to the Commissioners and the meeting will be held at Santa Fe Prep.

5. Old Business

a. Citizen Schools Update

Chris met with Diane Garcia, Principal for DeVargas School and she indicated that Citizen Schools is a very effective program and they have done a lot of great work at De Vargas. The Citizen Schools is asking for more money than what they have already received; they are going to receive \$147,000 for this school and they were asking for more money. Ms. Garcia stated that they decided that this was not going to work out and she was tasked to back fill this program based on direction from the Superintendent of Schools. She was asked to use the resources that they have to get this program done. Chris, in discussion with Ms. Garcia let her know that he was working with Communities in Schools and he wasn't sure it would identically fit the program in her school. Ms. Garcia said if they could handle the behavioral piece the school could handle the educational piece. Chris made contact with the Director of Communities in Schools and asked if she would entertain a conversation with the Principal of De Vargas and she said yes. Plans are to try to meet before the end of this week or early next week. Ms. Garcia would have the \$147,000 and Children and Youth has \$15,000 of the monies we have that we allocate to Citizen Schools. Ms. Garcia is very dedicated to helping our kids.

The Chair asked Chris to research what the process would be to transfer the \$15,000 to Communities in Schools. Chris has had the conversation with the Finance Director and he indicated that as long as it is appropriate to program and services and it is a program and service; that we could do that. They would need to apply for it and we would have to stay within the process. Mr. Multari asked Chris to find out if it could be allocated to De Vargas School.

b. Update on Warehouse 21

Chris provided information on the Board at Warehouse 21; the President is Paul Grace (Attorney), Vice President is Sheryl Roberts (Casting Director of Performing TV), Secretary-Treasurer is Ord Morgan (Marketing & Real Estate Investment Development Projects and Film Productions) and a member David Milliten (Artist/Architect). Economic Development is Scott Beckman who is from the Northern Pueblo Housing Authority and Joey Chavez, Director of Theater for NM School of Arts, Donna DeBanco (Radio Consultant), Greg Malone (Strategic Organization and Development and Technology) and Richard Polese (Book Publisher and former Santa Fe Public School Board Member) as Advisory Members.

Mr. Bustamante asked if this Board has officially met. Chris answered that the information given to him is that they are in the process of organizing their retreat to discuss their strategic planning.

Chris provided an update of his discussion with Debra Garcia y Griego, the Director for the Arts Commission and she indicated that she would be happy to meet with

Chris and the Board at Warehouse 21 to discuss concerns. Chris asked for direction from the Chair on how to proceed.

The Chair stated that the direction is pretty clear with the recent comment made by Councilor Patti Bushee. Board Development is the first topic of discussion that should be held. The Commissioners felt that this might be one time administratively that they should escalate to Ike Pino to discuss the concerns of the CYC. The Chair reiterated that we want them to succeed and move forward. It was reiterated that the CYC are the funders and should be included in any discussions related to Warehouse 21 funding. The topic of concern is board and finance.

6. Comments from the Chair and Commissioners

Interactive conversation throughout meeting.

7. Report from Staff

a. Update on Renewal of Contracts and next steps.

Chris reported that there were three organizations that did not make the 3-days schedule but they were received on Monday and they are now being processed through the Mayor and City Manager's office.

b. Update on Resolution regarding the proposed transitional education pilot program.

Resolution provided to the Commission sponsored by Councilor Carmichael Dominguez. *A Resolution directing staff to explore the options for developing a collaboration between the city of Santa Fe, Santa Fe County and the Santa Fe Public Schools to establish a transitional educational setting for high needs/at risk juveniles.*

This has gone through the Finance Committee and will go before the City Council. Chris will provide a report at the next meeting. Staff was requested to invite Ms. Bergman to the next meeting to get better acquainted with the Communities Schools.

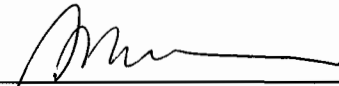
8. Matters from the Floor

None

9. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Children and Youth Commission, the Chair called for adjournment at 7:00 pm.

Signature Page:



Sue Anne Herrmann, Chair



Fran Lucero, Stenographer



PRESS RELEASE

June 24, 2013

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Sharon Kayne, Communications Director, NM Voices for Children
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NM Drops to 50th in Nation for Child Well-being in 2013 KIDS COUNT Data Book
State improves in some areas, worsens in others

ALBUQUERQUE—For the first time New Mexico has fallen to the bottom slot—ranking 50th in the nation in overall child well-being in the 2013 national KIDS COUNT Data Book. New Mexico has never ranked above 40th in the publication's 20-plus year history, but this is the first time the state has ranked dead last. Last year, New Mexico ranked 49th and Mississippi at 50th.

The data book, released annually by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, ranks the 50 states on 16 indicators of child well-being, classified under categories such as economic security, education, and health.

"This report must serve as a serious wake-up call to New Mexico's leaders. It's time to make significant investments in young children. We will continue to rank at the bottom until we make kids our highest priority," said Veronica C García, Ed.D., Executive Director for New Mexico Voices for Children.

The state's ongoing inability to recover from the recession is to blame for some of the drop to 50th. New Mexico's child poverty rate continues to increase, especially for young children. More children are living in single-parent families, which puts them at greater risk for poverty, and more children live in families where neither parent has full-time, year-round employment.

"While investments in young children are essential to improving poor outcomes, these economic indicators tell us that we also need to invest in working parents," said Dr. García. "Parents need to earn a living wage, and they need adequate work supports like high-quality, affordable child care. They also need help improving their own educational levels."

While New Mexico is doing worse in some indicators, the change in rankings is more closely tied to the fact that Mississippi is doing better. Over the past decade Mississippi

Exhibit A

saw improvement in two indicators that are key to predicting a child's educational success—the percentages of children attending preschool and of children whose parents finished high school. New Mexico has not seen improvement in these two indicators.

“More than 60 percent of our children are not attending preschool and 22 percent of our children live in families where the head of household lacks a high school diploma. These children will already be behind when they start school and they'll be unlikely to catch up,” said Dr. García. “As a state we must continue to focus on high-leverage strategies to improve New Mexico's national standings if we are ever to improve our graduation rates and see lasting economic development,” she added.

NM Voices for Children will release the national data book today at their *New Mexico KIDS COUNT Conference: 3rd Grade Counts!* at the Albuquerque Marriott Pyramid, 5151 San Francisco Rd. NE. The conference runs from 7:30am-1pm. The press conference to release the data book is 10:05-10:35am.

The 2013 KIDS COUNT Data Book and New Mexico fact sheet are available online at <http://datacenter.kidscount.org>.

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KIDS COUNT is a program of New Mexico Voices for Children and is made possible by grants from the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

New Mexico Voices for Children is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization advocating for policies to improve the health and well-being of New Mexico's children, families and communities. 625 Sliver Ave. SW, Suite 195, Albuquerque, NM 87102; 505-244-9505 (p); www.nmvoices.org

NEW MEXICO RATES AND RANKINGS IN THE 2012 NATIONAL KIDS COUNT DATA BOOK

| Overall Rank | | | 49 |
|--|------|--|----|
| Economic Well-Being | | | |
| Children in Poverty (2010) | 30% | | 49 |
| Children Whose Parents Lack Secure Employment (2010) | 37% | | 43 |
| Children Living in Households with a High Housing Cost Burden (2010) | 33% | | 15 |
| Teens (Ages 16-19) Not in School and Not Working (2010) | 12% | | 42 |
| Education | | | |
| Children Not Attending Preschool (2008-2010) | 62% | | 44 |
| Fourth Graders Not Proficient in Reading (2011) | 79% | | 50 |
| Eighth Graders Not Proficient in Math (2011) | 76% | | 45 |
| High School Students Not Graduating on Time (2008-2009) | 35% | | 48 |
| Health | | | |
| Low-Birth Weight Babies (2009) | 6.3% | | 25 |
| Children without Health Insurance (2010) | 10% | | 39 |
| Child and Teen Deaths per 100,000 (2009) | 40 | | 44 |
| Teens Who Abuse Alcohol or Drugs (2008-2009) | 10% | | 48 |
| Family and Community | | | |
| Children in Single-Parent Families (2010) | 42% | | 47 |
| Children in Families Where Household Head Lacks a High School Diploma (2010) | 20% | | 47 |
| Children Living in High-Poverty Areas (2006-2010) | 20% | | 49 |
| Teen (Ages 15-19) Births per 1,000 (2009) | 64 | | 49 |


Source: KIDS COUNT Data Book, 2012: State Trends in Child Well-Being; The Annie E. Casey Foundation

SUMMARY AND MEANING OF NEW MEXICO'S DATA

Demographics: New Mexico's population now stands at over two million, and more than a quarter (28 percent) of our population is under the age of 20. The most populous counties are Bernalillo, Doña Ana, Santa Fe, Sandoval, and San Juan. The state continues to maintain its majority-minority status, with 46 percent of the population being Hispanic, 41 percent non-Hispanic white, 9 percent Native American, and 6 percent African-American, Asian, or mixed/other race. Counties in which Hispanics make up the largest share of the population include Mora, San Miguel, Guadalupe, Rio Arriba, Doña Ana,

and Luna, McKinley, Cibola, and San Juan counties have majority Native American populations. Among children and youth ages 0 to 19, the racial/ethnic breakdown also reflects the majority-minority status: 48 percent are Hispanic, 23 percent are non-Hispanic white, 10 percent are Native American, and 19 percent are African-American, Asian, or mixed/other race.

Family and Community: The number of children living in single-parent households in New Mexico is a troubling indicator. Family structure is swiftly changing. At the national level, the percent of children living with married parents dropped steadily from the 1970s to the early 2000s, when



50th—dead last—among the states in 4th grade reading proficiency. Only about 20 percent—just two out of every ten New Mexico 4th graders—can read at a proficient level. If we consider the results from New Mexico's own 3rd grade reading proficiency test, the results are not any more encouraging. While in six school districts as many as 70 percent to 80 percent of 3rd graders score at a “proficient and above” level, in too many others—more than one-third of our public school districts—only 50 percent or less of the 3rd graders read proficiently or above. This does not bode well for many students’ potential to succeed as they progress into higher grade levels. This concern seems justified when we consider the low math proficiency rates of New Mexico’s 8th graders. In only 11 out of the state’s 89 public school districts do 60 percent or more of the 8th graders score at a “proficient or above” level. In two-thirds (60) of the school districts less than half the students can do math at the required level. Given that skill in mathematics is considered vital for 21st century technical jobs, low proficiency in mathematics is alarming in its implications for New Mexico’s future workforce capacity.

These low proficiency scores have an effect on the state’s high school graduation rate. A 2012 report from the U.S. Department of Education ranked only one state lower than New Mexico in terms of the on-time high school graduation rate.⁵ The state’s graduation rate, 63 percent (only 56 percent for economically disadvantaged students), means that more than one-third (37 percent) of our youth do not graduate from high school within four years. There are better performance rates, however. Some public school districts—most of them in small communities—have graduation rates of 90 percent and above.

Economic Well-Being: Many of these educational indicators appear to contribute to the high proportion of New Mexico teens, ages 16 to 19, who are not in school and not working. Roughly 12 percent of these

teens, often referred to as “disconnected” youth, are missing out on either early work experiences or higher education that will provide them with the pathways to more highly-paid careers, and/or protect them from chronic unemployment. (See box, page 6.) In New Mexico, teens in this age group who do not have a high school diploma are more likely to fall into this “disconnected” youth category.

New Mexico families, especially those with children, are still struggling with the aftermath of the recession and the slow economic recovery. Always considered one of the “poor” states in the nation, New Mexico’s median household income, at \$43,715, is more than \$7,000 less than the national median. The number of families considered “middle class” is shrinking as families struggle to stay above poverty, provide adequate nutrition for their children, pay expensive medical costs, and hold onto homes and employment. Currently, New Mexico ranks 49th among the states in the percent of children living in poverty—close to one-third of our state’s children live below the poverty level. In some counties, the rate is even higher than that. In Luna County, more than half of the children under age 18 live in poverty, and two out of every five children in Taos County are poor. One indicator of poverty is that two-thirds of students in New Mexico schools are eligible for free and reduced-price lunch and breakfast. In some public school districts, 90 percent or more of the students are eligible for free or reduced-price meals.

A marker of how much the lingering recession impacts families is the fact that more than one-third (37 percent) of the state’s children live in families in which no parent has full-time, year-round employment. Counties with particularly high rates of families where parents lack secure employment include Grant and San Miguel (31 percent each), and Cibola and Rio Arriba (29 percent each). Another sign that families with children are under financial stress is the increased percentage of households receiving SNAP benefits (formerly known as “food stamps”).

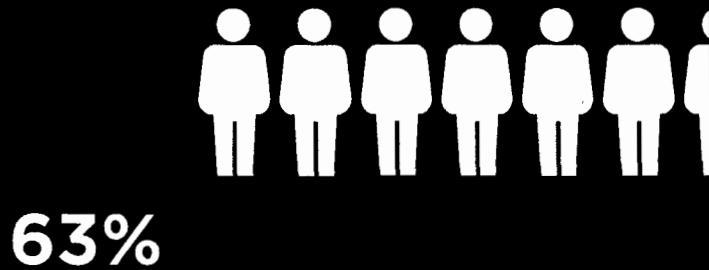
New Mexico's Educational Outcomes are Unbalanced



60%



76%



37%



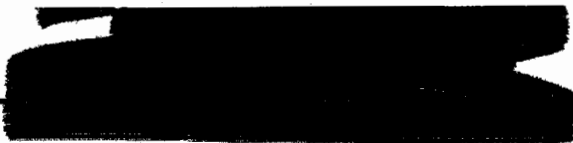


The state's rate of enrollment has grown from 11 percent to 13 percent (2008-2011), and in some counties, like Luna, as many as one in five families receives SNAP.

An additional measure of family economic security is the extent to which households have financial assets and resources—such as savings, interest from investments, and rental income—to help them weather a catastrophic financial event. These events can include the loss of a job, crushing medical debt, or even a recession. In this state, less than one in five households has these types of assets to fall back on. A greater percent of families with investment and rental income live in Santa Fe, Lincoln, and Grant counties, while less than one in ten households in Cibola, McKinley, and San Miguel counties has these resources.

In New Mexico, a large number of households also struggle with high housing costs; that is, they pay more than 30 percent of their income for rent or on a mortgage. Approximately 65 percent of New Mexico households are shouldering high housing costs, and one-third of the state's children live in these households. This means that these families have less money to pay for food, clothing, utilities, and other essentials that ensure the health and well-being of their offspring.

Health: All of the factors described above have an impact on children's physical and emotional health and well-being. One major means of promoting children's health—one that is keenly influenced by policy decisions—is health insurance coverage for young people, especially those living in poor and low-income families. With insurance coverage, children are more likely to get the preventive visits, immunizations, developmental checks, and care needed to keep them on a positive trajectory of physical, intellectual, and emotional growth. In New Mexico, approximately 14 percent of children under age 18 do not have health insurance of any kind, and of the 86 percent of children who do have insurance,



46 percent are covered by Medicaid.⁶ Over half (52 percent) of New Mexico's children under age 19 are living in poverty-level and low-income families.⁷ It is clear that Medicaid, which covers about 337,000 kids under age 21, is of crucial importance to the health of our youth. Medicaid must be sustained and all eligible children enrolled.

Other KIDS COUNT indicators that highlight the health status of New Mexico adolescents show that there is room for concern: New Mexico ranks 48th among the states in the proportion of teens who abuse alcohol and drugs. According to data from the state's Department of Health and the Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey, one in four of the state's high school students use illicit drugs and/or engages in binge drinking. (Binge drinking is defined by the YRRS as having five or more drinks of alcohol in a row, within a couple of hours, on one or more of the past 30 days.) In some of our state's counties the rates of teens reporting they binge drink are even more alarming: 42 percent in Union County; 38 percent in Santa Fe and Mora counties; and 37 percent in Sierra and Taos counties. Alcohol and drug use may also be factors in the high teen death rates in the state—59 per 100,000 teens.

In addition, New Mexico continues to have the second highest rate of teen (ages 15-19) births, especially among Hispanics and Native Americans. Although the state's teen birth rate appears to be slowly decreasing, we continue to have higher rates than most other states. Children born to teens are at much greater risk of being trapped in the cycle of family poverty, having poor educational achievement, engaging in criminal behavior, and becoming teen parents themselves.

TAKING ACTION

New Mexico does not have comprehensive policies that provide all children in our state access to the opportunities that promote progress and allow youth to reach their full potential. The research

exists that can guide us to develop and implement policies that promote and support children and families, from (and before) birth through adolescence. New Mexico needs to move from knowledge to practice.

State government should support and fund a comprehensive, high-quality early childhood care and education system of services. These services include prenatal care and home visiting programs, high-quality child care, and preschool. Such programs will do much to improve the well-being of New Mexico's children, giving infants and toddlers the best start during the most critical developmental stage of their lives and ensuring that children are reading by third grade and will have the necessary foundation for a successful path to high school graduation and college/career readiness. We also need to provide greater access to education and training opportunities to adults in our communities. We know that the increased educational attainment levels of the adults (parents) in our state will result in improved educational outcomes for our children. We must also ensure that children and families have adequate access to health care and insurance. Providing funding that supports child and youth development across education, health, workforce development, and other systems is needed. Policymakers should require accountability by linking program funding to meaningful outcomes and continue or eliminate programs based on their effectiveness.

State and local policymakers need to make use of credible data in considering the potential impact of budgetary and policy decisions. The data and information on the current status of child and family well-being provided in this 2012 New Mexico KIDS COUNT Data Book are meant to be of use to decision-makers in taking meaningful steps to address and reduce the adverse economic, social, and educational factors impeding our children's prospects for future success.



ECONOMIC WELL-BEING
DOMAIN RANK
49

Children in poverty

2011

31%

157,000 CHILDREN

WORSENERD

2005 26%

Children whose parents lack secure employment

2011

37%

192,000 CHILDREN

WORSENERD

2008 30%

Children living in households with a high housing cost burden

2011

36%

188,000 CHILDREN

WORSENERD

2005 31%

Teens not in school and not working

2011

11%

13,000 TEENS

WORSENERD

2008 10%

EDUCATION
DOMAIN RANK
49

Children not attending preschool

2009-II

62%

35,000 CHILDREN

IMPROVED

2005-07 63%

Fourth graders not proficient in reading

2011

79%

N.A.

IMPROVED

2005 80%

Eighth graders not proficient in math

2011

76%

N.A.

IMPROVED

2005 86%

High school students not graduating on time

2009/10

33%

9,019 STUDENTS

UNCHANGED

2005/06 33%

N.A. Not Available.

HEALTH
DOMAIN RANK
49

Low-birthweight babies

2010

8.7%

2,427 BABIES

WORSENERD

2005 8.5%

Children without health insurance

2011

9%

47,000 CHILDREN

IMPROVED

2008 14%

Child and teen deaths per 100,000

2010

36

200 DEATHS

IMPROVED

2005 47

Teens who abuse alcohol or drugs

2010-II

9%

15,000 TEENS

UNCHANGED

2005-06 9%

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY
DOMAIN RANK
49

Children in single-parent families

2011

43%

208,000 CHILDREN

WORSENERD

2005 38%

Children in families where the household head lacks a high school diploma

2011

22%

115,000 CHILDREN

WORSENERD

2005 21%

Children living in high-poverty areas

2007-II

21%

108,000 CHILDREN

WORSENERD

2000 20%

Teen births per 1,000

2010

53

3,872 BIRTHS

IMPROVED

2005 62

UNITED STATES




ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

Children in poverty

2011

23%

16,387,000 CHILDREN

WORSENERD

2005 19%

Children whose parents lack secure employment

2011

32%

23,777,000 CHILDREN

WORSENERD

2008 27%

Children living in households with a high housing cost burden

2011

40%

29,486,000 CHILDREN

WORSENERD

2005 37%

Teens not in school and not working

2011

8%

1,497,000 TEENS

UNCHANGED

2008 8%



EDUCATION

Children not attending preschool

2009-II

54%

4,325,000 CHILDREN

IMPROVED

2005-07 56%

Fourth graders not proficient in reading

2011

68%

N.A.

IMPROVED

2005 70%

Eighth graders not proficient in math

2011

66%

N.A.

IMPROVED

2005 72%

High school students not graduating on time

2009/10

22%

870,542 STUDENTS

IMPROVED

2005/06 27%

N.A. Not Available.



HEALTH

Low-birthweight babies

2010

8.1%

325,563 BABIES

IMPROVED

2005 8.2%

Children without health insurance

2011

7%

5,528,000 CHILDREN

IMPROVED

2008 10%

Child and teen deaths per 100,000

2010

26

20,482 DEATHS

IMPROVED

2005 32

Teens who abuse alcohol or drugs

2010-II

7%

1,752,000 TEENS

IMPROVED

2005-06 8%



FAMILY AND COMMUNITY

Children in single-parent families

2011

35%

24,718,000 CHILDREN

WORSENERD

2005 32%

Children in families where the household head lacks a high school diploma

2011

15%

11,131,000 CHILDREN

IMPROVED

2005 16%

Children living in high-poverty areas

2007-II

12%

8,591,000 CHILDREN

WORSENERD

2000 9%

Teen births per 1,000

2010

34

367,678 BIRTHS

IMPROVED

2005 40