

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
WORK SESSION HELD ON  
TUESDAY, JUNE 15, 2021**

A work session of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, June 15, 2021, at 11:00 a.m. in the Board of Supervisors' Executive Conference Room, 1415 Melody Lane, Building G, Bisbee, Arizona.

Present: Ann English, Chairman; Peggy Judd, Vice-Chairman; Tom Crosby, Supervisor

Staff Present: Richard G. Karwaczka, County Administrator  
Sharon Gilman, Associate County Administrator  
Christine Roberts, Chief Civil Deputy County Attorney  
Kim Lemons, Clerk of the Board  
Camila Rochin, Public Information Officer

Attendees: Alicia Thompson, Health & Social Services Director  
Belinda Gonzalez, Reproductive Health Program Coordinator  
Maria Mena, Administrative Coordinator

Chairman English called the meeting to order at 11:27 a.m.

**ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA IS OPEN FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION**

**THE ORDER OR DELETION OF ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA IS SUBJECT TO MODIFICATION AT THE MEETING**

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***ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION***

**Board of Supervisors**

1. Discussion and possible direction regarding the Health and Social Services Reproductive Health Program service fees update and implementation of a sliding fee scale.

Dr. Thompson and Ms. Gonzalez presented this item using a PowerPoint presentation and responded to various questions from the Board throughout. Dr. Thompson stated that statute allows fees to be charged, though fees have not been charged in the past. Ms. Gonzalez reviewed the Reproductive Health Program (Program) mission, goals and objectives. The percentage of teen birth rates and of those who receive prenatal care in the first trimester is worse than the statewide percentages; teen birth rates are higher than average, while the percent who receive prenatal care is lower. There is a shortage of providers in the County; out of 13 Obstetrician-Gynecologists (OB-GYNs) in the County, 10 are nearing retirement.

Ms. Gonzalez reviewed Program statistics, noting that in 2019, the Sierra Vista clinic was stopped, resulting in a decrease in the number of patient visits. The goal for the upcoming year is to reopen the clinic in Sierra Vista and to keep the monthly clinic in Willcox. Program eligibility requirements state that clients at or below 150% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) shall receive services free of charge; those above 150% of the FPL can be

provided services on a sliding fee scale within certain guidelines. Staff is proposing that clients between 151-250% of the FPL pay 50% of the proposed fees, while those at 251% or higher of the FPL pay 100%. The volume of patients does not justify the amount of resources necessary to bill insurance companies.

Ms. Gonzalez reviewed the proposed fees in detail. She responded to various questions from the Board regarding the services provided; costs to the County; income levels being self-reported; there being a need to reopen the clinic in Sierra Vista; and, the Program being for Cochise County residents. Dr. Thompson and Ms. Lemons discussed the required public notice and posting requirements.

Chairman English adjourned the meeting at 11:57 a.m.

APPROVED:

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Ann English, Chairman

ATTEST:

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Kim Lemons, Clerk of the Board