

RESOLUTION NO. R-19-12

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE COUNTY AND
TRIBAL HEALTH COUNCIL ACT**

WHEREAS, health councils were created in New Mexico in 1991, through the Maternal and Child Health Plan Act, in order to improve the health of New Mexico residents by creating a system of integrated community-based councils to provide health assessment, planning, coordination, and community action in a state that does not have a decentralized system of health boards and offices; and,

WHEREAS, health councils have played a central role in creating local health systems that improve the health of New Mexicans. These health systems include planned and coordinated programs and services to meet locally identified needs, improving access to primary care, behavioral health, and supportive social services—all while seeking to maximize efficiencies and avoid duplication. Under health council leadership, communities have created parks, trail systems, and recreational facilities that improve health and fitness. Communities have become healthier through addressing environmental issues, such as traffic and pedestrian issues, air and water pollution, and cleanup efforts. Communities in so-called “food deserts” have developed public/private partnerships to create greater access to healthy food choices; and,

WHEREAS, health councils have served as a key component of New Mexico’s statewide public health and health care system, connecting communities to State government, and often serving as “backbone” organizations in mobilizing community coalitions, public/private partnerships, and multi-agency projects. The health councils have enhanced the effectiveness of the NM Department of Health and other state agencies, through state-local communication, planning, education, health advocacy, and outreach. The councils play an important role in qualifying the NM Department of Health for national accreditation through the National Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB); and,

WHEREAS, health councils have leveraged major funding for communities throughout New Mexico—attracting, according to one study, four dollars for every dollar invested by the State. The councils have helped to stimulate positive economic development from increased health sector employment and savings resulting from a healthier workforce; and,

WHEREAS, a community health council has been established in Grant County since January 1999, and has raised tens of millions of dollars to generate the following projects and programs:

- Corre Caminos Transit System
- Red Hot Children’s Fiesta, the largest child development resource fair in Southwest NM, serving over 2000 families annually
- Coordinated with NM Department of Health and Healthy Kids Healthy Communities to train over 50 Grant County community members in QPR (suicide prevention) in 2 school districts, and 2 municipalities
- Direct involvement in Robert Wood Johnson Health Kids Healthy Communities grant

- Weekly compilation of Community Calendar
- Facilitated coordination of local service providers, local government, community residents and other partners
- Collaborated with NM Direct Caregivers Coalition organizing 2 Caregivers' courses in 2 municipalities
- Partnered with Judicial District 6 DA's office and local domestic violence shelter, coordinated 3rd annual Domestic Violence Awareness training and CEU's for Law Enforcement and other service providers
- Assist with Youth Substance Abuse Coalition
- Development and compilation of 5-year County Comprehensive Community Health Assessments and other planning tools
- Compilation of Grant County Senior Resource Guide
- Coordination and implementation of pertinent Community Forums
- Compilation of Community Resource Material, now available online at gcchcnn.org in Coordination with Share NM

WHEREAS, the health and well-being of county residents has benefitted from these health council projects far beyond the initial state investment in the council, and whereas the funds raised by the council to benefit the health of Grant County residents has far surpassed the initial levels of state funding, drawing national attention to Grant County as a health care innovator and a model for the state's other Health Councils.

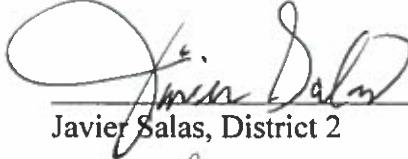
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GRANT COUNTY COMMISSION that the New Mexico State Legislature should fully fund the County and Tribal Health Council Act, enabling councils throughout New Mexico to convene community stakeholders for the purpose of planning, coordinating and developing locally needed programming.

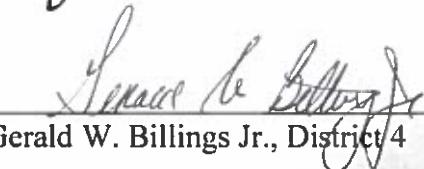
APPROVED, ADOPTED AND PASSED on this 24th day of January 2019.


Chris Ponce, District 1


Alicia Edwards, District 3


Harry Browne, District 5


Javier Salas, District 2


Gerald W. Billings Jr., District 4

ATTEST:


Marisa Castrillo, County Clerk

