New Mexico Alliance of Health Councils

Partnering for Health Equity

Con Alma Health Foundation
Health Care Reform Convening
Las Cruces, New Mexico
January 11, 2013
New Mexico’s Health Councils

- 20 years of community-based health planning and assessment
- Created under 1992 Maternal and Child health plan Act
- State-funded until 2012
- 33 counties, 5 tribal communities
- Essential part of NM public health system
Health Councils are unique to New Mexico:

- Non-categorical health coalitions
- Community health assessments
- Long-range health plans
- Community action: Locally-determined health priorities
Health Council Priorities, 2010:

Evidence-based Interventions

- Diabetes & Obesity: 20%
- Substance Abuse: 19%
- Teen Pregnancy Prevention: 16%
- Access to Care: 14%
- Mental Health: 19%
- Others: 14%

[Pie chart showing distribution of priorities]
Systems-level Outcomes:

- Change policies
- Build networks and coalitions
- Develop joint programs
- Leverage funding
- Coordinate programs and services (reduce duplication, gaps in services)

• 80% active (30 councils)
• 80% of those had some funding
• 22 had a paid coordinator
• 8 had a volunteer coordinator
NM Alliance of Health Councils

- Originally MCH Council Association
- September 2010 Convening:
  - Need for unified voice
  - Advocate for health council funding
  - Need to build capacity, strengthen communities
- Alliance created, early 2011
- Part-time coordinator (CAHF grant)
Alliance Structure

• **General membership:**
  *Health councils, coalitions, organizations, individuals, etc.*

• **Steering Committee:**
  *Health Councils (voting members)*

• **Executive Committee:**
  *7-9 elected members (plus ex-officio)*

• **Committees:**
  *Policy, Resource Development, Capacity-building*
Current Alliance Activities

- Restoration of Funding
- Strengthening of the health councils
- Strengthening of the Alliance
- Work with Health Equity Partnership
Evolution of Health Councils

- From programs & services to systems-level changes
- Health disparities, social & economic determinants
- Health care reform: Community Transformation, outreach
- Health equity: Commitment to the absence of systematic health disparities