

Basic Needs Subcommittee
Los Alamos County Health Board
June 21, 2022

Members present: Candice Wilhite-Quiroga, NMDOH; Kristine Coblenz, County Social Services, along with interns Sophia and Isabella; Deni Fell, County Social Services; Lyn Haval, board rep and LA Cares.

Candice reported that they are still taking applications for the Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program, and to keep sending them in until notified that all of the funds had been allocated. Lyn mentioned that the new "988" Behavioral Health Crisis Line will be active on July 16. Candice said that there is free mental health training for groups through the DOH.

Deni had a booth at the Pride Festival in order to share what services are provided by County Social Services. She also sets up her booth weekly at the Farmers' Market and visits with community members and answers questions about services.

Kristine introduced their summer interns, Sophia and Isabella. Kristine wanted an update on supplemental food sources in Los Alamos, and that the interns were creating a new brochure for Social Services. LA Cares and the Food Depot are the biggest suppliers of supplemental food; mini-food pantries in town include: Trinity on the Hill, the United Church, and La Vista Nazarene Church in WR. LA Cares also provides emergency food boxes that can be accessed through Social Services, the Senior Centers, or by calling LA Cares. There were questions about several places that provided food in the past, and the interns will check into the following: Aaron's Closet (used to provide lunches for high school students at the Methodist Church), and the summer lunch program through the schools.

Kristine also reported that there is a full time nurse at the DOH public health office in Los Alamos.

Kristine asked about the status of LA Cares and their search for a "home of their own". Lyn said she would provide her with some information from past presentations, and that a "home of our own" has been a long-time dream of LA Cares. Lyn also provided some background on the workings of LA Cares for the interns, and will meet with them in the future to discuss LA Cares procedures.