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# The Voter

League of Women Voters of  
Central New Mexico  
September 2013

LVWCNM homepage: <http://www.lwvcnm.org>

## Developing the Health Care Workforce Topic of September Meetings

By Dick Mason

The May, 2013 Legislative Finance Committee report on the "Adequacy of New Mexico's Healthcare Systems Workforce" documented what we already knew -- that we have a real shortage of health care providers in New Mexico and that shortage will be exacerbated when the coverage under the Affordable Care Act goes into effect.

Here are some of the facts: We have an aging population. Projections say that by 2030, 33 percent of our population will be over 60. That age group requires more health care services. As of Jan. 1, 2014, as many as 350,000 more New Mexicans will be eligible to receive affordable health coverage through the health insurance exchange and the Medicaid expansion. That not only means they will need health services, but that those who provide those services will be paid -- something that is not assured today.

It is estimated that between 2014 and 2020 the New Mexico economy will be receiving over six billion dollars in additional federal money due to the Affordable Care Act. This doesn't include the extra Medicare money that will be coming into New Mexico because of our aging population.

Many of the newly insured will live in rural New Mexico. That means much of their health care dollars will be spent there. Health care dollars are estimated to generate more than three dollars of economic activity for every health care dollar expended. This will help small businesses in rural New Mexico.

Taken together, the above facts show the

tremendous potential for economic development in New Mexico. You have a need and the funds available to address those needs. That is two out of the three major factors that go into developing a market. The third factor is developing the resources to address that need. New Mexico needs a strategic plan for how we will develop those resources.

Keep in mind that the main shortage is in the area of primary care. That means that if we can develop innovative ways of delivering primary care, it can go a long way towards addressing the health care provider shortage. In order to do that we are going to have to reexamine how primary care is delivered.

New Mexico has already shown leadership in developing paraprofessionals to help deliver primary care. New Mexico is near the top when it comes to allowing a broader scope of practice for nurse practitioners, midwives, physician assistants and pharmacists. But we need to go much further. That will be the subject of the September unit meetings.

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### September Calendar

Sept. 5	Voter deadline
Sept. 5	Board meeting, 5:30 p.m.
Sept. 10	Evening Unit, 6 p.m.
Sept. 12	Luncheon Unit, 11.45 a.m.
Sept. 23	N.E. Heights Unit, 10 a.m.
Sept. 26	New Mexico Mental Health Care Services Study Committee, 5:30 p.m.

**League of Women Voters of  
Central New Mexico  
Board Meeting**

**1st Thursday of each month  
Offices of Sutin, Thayer & Browne,  
6565 Americas Parkway NE**

Program Committees

***Drug Policy***

Jan Bray

***Mental Health Study***

Jan Bray & Shelly Shepherd

All League members are invited to all unit meetings, committee and board meetings.

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**Reception Set for Oct. 15**

LWVCNM is hosting the Albuquerque council and mayor -- including those council members who were elected in the last election, and the County Commissioners -- at a reception on Oct. 15 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the Special Collections Library at 423 Central N.E. on the N.W. corner of Edith and Central. This is your invitation and we would like to have you RSVP to the office: 884-8441 by Oct. 1.

We hope that all of you will come with your partner, friend or neighbor and enjoy hors d'oeuvres and wine while meeting and greeting our representatives. Especially welcome are new members of League and potential members. This is an opportunity for all of us to get to know our new members and encourage other interested men and women to join us. Bott's Hall holds 125 people. Wouldn't it be great if we could fill it and impress the Council and Commission with our strength and good will?

We want to have constituents from every district to talk with their councilor and commissioner. If you know of a district, yours or another one, that has few Leaguers living in it, let me know. With your help, we can promote the event to folks in that area and get a few more to attend. Please come.

-- Peggy Howell

**President's Corner**

By *Andrea Targhetta*

A number of years ago, I was talking with my daughter Carrie who was attending the University of California, Irvine. I asked if she was registered to vote. Her response was, "Yes I am registered, but you know Mom, I am the only one of my friends who is." I was shocked that young people who were just venturing out in life were not interested in voting. I thought it was a rite of passage, just as turning 21 was. How many of you have had this same scenario?

I decided that I needed to be active in getting more young people to vote. This statement also applies to every citizen, young and older, in this state. We have registered hundreds of adults who were not on the rolls. As Thomas Jefferson said, "We in America do not have government by the majority. We have government by the majority who participate."

National Voter Registration Day is Sept. 24 and it sets the stage for elections to be held next month. Our voter registration closes on Sept. 10 for the 2013 Municipal Election in Albuquerque. The Bernalillo County Clerk's office held voter registration training on Aug. 24 for our League and anyone else wishing to register voters. We have been registering voters all year at various locations, ready to serve the public. This is the most visible activity of our league. Even if you are not a trained registration agent, you can make sure your neighbors have information about the election. You can ask everyone you know if they are registered and see to it that they get a LWVCNM Municipal *Voters' Guide*. Help your friends and neighbors find election information on our website, such as early voting locations. Drive handicapped persons to the polls. There is much we can do. Democracy starts with a VOTE-- so let's be active and get started!

**Save the date – LWV Lobbying**

Workshop Saturday, Dec. 7 – 10 a.m.-noon Learn about the legislative process -- how to effectively lobby your Legislators

Julianna Koob, Lobbyist for SW Women's Law Center, among others. Sen. Peter Wirth & Representative Jimmie Hall (invited) Location in Albuquerque. Full agenda will be listed in future *Voters*

# Health Care Workforce

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## **Evening Unit -- Sept. 10 at 6 p.m.**

Nick Estes, board member of Health Action New Mexico, will talk about "The Economic Benefits of Health Care Spending." While working as a policy analyst for New Mexico Voices for Children, Nick helped develop a number of policy papers on this subject.

The meeting will be at 6 p.m. at the Erna Fergusson Library, 3700 San Mateo Blvd.N.E.

## **Luncheon Unit -- Sept. 12 at 11:45 a.m.**

Kevin McMullan, health professional recruiter, New Mexico Health Resources and New Mexico native, will be the speaker. He has worked as a health professional recruiter for New Mexico Health Resources, Inc. since 2008. Other than a seven-year stint in Colorado in the late 1980s and early 1990s, he has worked in New Mexico in healthcare since 1975. He has worked or had direct operational responsibility for health services in sixteen of New Mexico's thirty-three counties. Along the way, Kevin has been recruiting physicians on and off since 1976. He has a master's degree in health administration from the University of Wisconsin. New Mexico Health Resources, Inc. (NMHR) is a private, non-profit, no-fee agency organized to support efforts to recruit and retain healthcare personnel for communities including rural and medically underserved areas around New Mexico.

The meeting will be held at 11:45 a.m. at the MCM Elegante Hotel, 2020 Menaul N.E. Reservations for the lunch must be made by 10 a.m. on Sept. 9. The cost of lunch is \$15. To make

a reservation, please call the LWVCNM office at 884-8441 or email [lunch@lwvcnm.org](mailto:lunch@lwvcnm.org). Ask about your menu options.

## **N.E. Heights Unit -- Sept. 23 at 10 a.m.**

Dick Mason, board member of Health Action New Mexico and the League of Women Voters of New Mexico will talk about "Legislative Strategies for Developing the New Mexico Health Care Workforce." Dick has worked on systemic health care reform for 25 years.

Also speaking will be Maurice "Mark" L. Moffett, Ph.D, Health Economist for the Robert Woods Johnson Institute for Public Health and assistant professor in the University of New Mexico Department of Family & Community Medicine.

"The RWJF Center for Health Policy provides excellent infrastructure and leadership for multidisciplinary research. The center directly provides research, student and development support and creates a bridge between the social and health sciences." Moffett said.

Moffett received his Ph.D. in economics from the University of New Mexico. He has held several positions within health services research organizations, including the Baylor College of Medicine, the Michael E. DeBakey Veteran Affairs Health Services Research and Development Center of Excellence and the West Virginia University's School of Pharmacy. His research focuses on the use of health services research as the foundation for health policy evaluation.

The meeting will be held at 10 a.m. at the La Vida Llena Retirement Community, 10501 Lagrima De Oro Rd N.E.

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## **New Mexico Mental Health Care Services Study Committee is Off and Running**

*By Shelly Shepherd*

The Mental Health Care Services Study Committee began meeting monthly in July. There are currently 20 members on the committee. However, most of the members are from LWVC-NM. Jan Bray and I are looking for ways to involve LWV members outside of Central New Mexico, possibly using communication methods such as teleconferencing and e-mail and drop box. If you have any suggestions, please let Jan or I know.

The committee has been busy gathering

news articles, and publications and attending meetings and conferences regarding mental health care services in New Mexico. There has been a great deal of focus on mental health this past month due to the HSD (Human Services Department) audit. Jan and other League members attended Legislative Finance Committee meetings addressing dealing with behavioral health, hoping to learn about opportunities to improve services and address service gaps.

## Book Review: *The Spirit of Compromise*

Editor's Note: Book Review -- This review of an important public policy book is a regular feature in the *Voter*.

Report By Olin Bray, Author of ebook, *Political Incompetence: What's Wrong With Our System and How To Fix It*

*The Spirit of Compromise: Why Governing Demands It and Campaigning Undermines It*, by Amy Gutmann and Dennis Thompson, 2012, Princeton University Press, 253 pages.

This book talks about why compromise is so important, but so hard to do. Although it is a critical part of policy and decision making in a democracy, many people, including many elected officials, still reject it. Some political decisions can be made by consensus or finding the common ground. Boehner talks about finding the common ground, but says he rejects compromise. Unfortunately, consensus and common ground decisions are few and far between since they rely on a

convergence of values. Most of the hard decisions require compromise, which is appropriate when there is a divergence of values. Everyone has to accept that they will lose something they want to get an agreement. Part of their willingness to make a compromise depends on their evaluation of the status quo, which will continue if there is no agreement. If you like the status quo, then you have little reason to compromise, whereas if you think the status quo is bad, then you are much more willing to accept a compromise to change it.

There is a difference between acceptance (or rejection) of the principle of compromise and acceptance (or rejection) of a specific compromise. Unfortunately, one party seems to reject the very principle of compromise. Attitudes toward a specific compromise depend in part on how it was arrived at. Was the process fair? Were all of the significant players involved?

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## Mental Health Care

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In July I attended a Creating Community Solutions (CCS) conference. Albuquerque was one of less than a dozen cities selected by President Obama's call in January for conversations to be held about Mental Health. The first two cities to host community conversations were Albuquerque and Sacramento, Calif. Both were held on July 20. I recently received a report on our Albuquerque conference from CCS. There were 300 attendees, including 225 dialogue participants. Community leaders, including Mayor Richard Berry and former Sen. Pete Domenici spoke. The mayor joined the dialogue. This is what the participants said:

**Problems:** Lack of resources and training, fragmented services, high cost of care, and the stigma effect

**Strategies:** Augment awareness. Strengthen existing effective resources. Improve preventive services. Improve continuity of care.

**Strategies for youth:** Teach mental health education in schools. Bring services to young people. Strengthen peer-to-peer support. Use multi-channel media.

**Action ideas:** Implement a media campaign to raise awareness. Make mental health providers more accessible to young people. Spearhead an initiative to secure funding.

The New Mexico Mental Health Care Services Study Committee intends to explore some of these and other areas, as well as exploring what services are available or lacking in all counties in New Mexico. If you are interested in being involved in this study, and haven't done so, please contact Jan Bray (292-7270) or me, Shelly Shepherd (296-1238). (Add area code for those of us outside Albuquerque.)

The next meeting of the Mental Health Study Committee will be held Sept. 26 at 5:30 p.m. at the home of Jan Bray, 7041 Prairie Ct (2 blocks north of Montgomery and 1 block east of Louisiana). The New Mexico Mental Health Care Services Study Committee plans to meet the fourth Thursday of every month at 5:30 p.m. New members are welcome. Call Jan at (505) 292-7270 or Shelly at 296-1238 to join the committee. You can email us at [ohbray@nmia.com](mailto:ohbray@nmia.com) or [shelly@shepdesignassoc.com](mailto:shelly@shepdesignassoc.com) if you prefer.

# *The Spirit of Compromise*

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The authors say the characteristics of real compromise include shared sacrifice and willful opposition. They suggest there are mindsets for and against compromise. A pro-compromise mindset includes mutual respect and principle prudence, a willingness to adapt your principles to get an agreement that improves the status quo even if the compromise is not ideal. The anti-compromise mindset includes mutual mistrust and suspicion and principled tenacity, an unwillingness to adapt and change no matter what. Regardless of your mindset there are distinct risks involved in compromising. Your base may decide you have abandoned your principles or have none at all. Even

worse you may face a serious primary challenge. Also you can never be sure you really got the best possible deal, but that is really like trying to time the market.

The book also discusses the role of compromise in governing and campaigning. Campaigning by its current nature is very anti-compromise -- mistrust your opponent and maintain your principles (tenacity). Unfortunately, these attitudes and carry over into governing. If your opponents were fiendish, evil monsters during the campaign, why would you expect them to become rational, trustworthy decision makers after the election when governing? The book makes a lot of good points and perhaps suggests some interesting questions for candidate forums.



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