

Independent Assessor Description

The independent assessor team is based at the University of New Mexico's Center for Behavioral Health Training and Research (CBHTR). CBHTR was founded by the New Mexico Behavioral Health Collaborative and the New Mexico Higher Educational Department. Their goals include developing behavioral health services research and evaluation capacity to address NM's unique concerns and close the gap between science and practice through policy guidance and technical assistance to the state's leadership, providers, service recipients, and families.

CBHTR worked with the state to develop and conduct the mid-point assessment. This entailed introductory meetings which included review of the STCs and scope of work. During these meetings and in subsequent email communications, the independent assessor developed the plan for the Mid-Point Assessment, guided by CMS' Medicaid Section 1115 SUD and SEMI/SED Demonstrations Mid-Point Assessment Technical Assistance (October, 2021). The state ensured the independent assessor 1) conducted a fair and impartial assessment and 2) wrote an objective report in the following ways:

- 1) CBHTR is an independent entity with extensive experience in producing independent assessments for the state on other policy-related projects (e.g., New Mexico Recovery Project).
- 2) In the assessment of the monitoring metric data, CBHTR team contacted the state to obtain and confirm monitoring metric data but did not discuss results or provide recommendations prior to submitting the report to the state for review (May 18th, 2022).
- 3) CBHTR assessment team followed the CMS technical guidance on monitoring metric progress measurement to assure a standard and fair methodology of assessment.
- 4) The ancillary data (narrative of monitoring reports, stakeholder interviews, workforce assessment) were all collected in a standard fashion (typed notes) and reported verbatim (see quotes in the report) to facilitate fair and impartial interpretation of these more subjective findings.
- 5) The report was written by two members of CBHTR, who have no conflict of interest (see below) that would impact ability to conduct an impartial assessment of state progress.

No Conflict of Interest

The authors of this report (New Mexico Medicaid's 1115 SUD Waiver Mid-Point Assessment) have no conflicts of interest to declare. The authors whose names are listed below certify that they have no affiliations with or involvement in any organization or entity with any financial interest (such as honoraria; educational grants; participation in speakers' bureaus; membership, employment, consultancies, stock ownership, or other equity interest; and expert testimony or patent-licensing arrangements), or non-financial interest (such as personal or professional relationships, affiliations, knowledge or beliefs) in the subject matter or materials discussed in this manuscript.

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