



NEW MEXICO HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT
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Bill Richardson
Governor

Pamela S. Hyde, J.D.
Secretary

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Mental Health and Substance Abuse Meetings Continue

Santa Fe, May 29, 2003 – The Human Services Department is participating in a series of public forums to improve the delivery of mental health and substance abuse services for those served by various state programs, including Medicaid. "The primary focus of these meetings is to look at ways to improve the quality and types of treatment without increasing costs," said Pamela S. Hyde, human services department secretary.

Medicaid spends about \$122 million per year, or about ten percent of its \$1.2 billion budget, on mental health and substance abuse treatment services. And thousands of low-income families and at risk youth count on these specialized services to improve their lives.

Three state agencies provide most of the mental health and substance abuse services that are being focused on during the forums. The Human Services Department provides health insurance, including mental health and substance abuse services mostly to children receiving Medicaid -- About two thirds of the 392,857 people receiving Medicaid are children. The Department of Health provides these services to some low-income adults. And the Children, Youth and Families Department serves mostly children who are at risk, in protective services or the juvenile justice system, including tribal social service programs.

The forums are sponsored by the Medicaid Behavioral Health Steering Committee. The committee members are Pam Galbraith, health care provider; Martha Gorospe-Charlie, American Indian representative; Hendrika Hartogh, managed care organizations; Michael Hubert, consumer representative; Nancy Koenigsberg, advocate; Pam Martin, Dept. of Health; Ken Martinez, Children, Youth and Families Department; Scott Nelson, Human Services

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Mental Health and Substance Abuse Meetings.....Add 1

Department; and Delfy Peña Roach, family representative.

Mental health and substance abuse forums were held in Albuquerque and Las Vegas last month. Forum dates and locations for June are below:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>
June 3	Farmington, San Juan Community College Henderson Fine Arts Building	4:30-6:30 p.m.
June 5	Roswell, Eastern NM University, Club Alcove	4:30-6:30 p.m.
June 10	Albuquerque (American Indian Meeting) Indian Pueblo Cultural Center	4:30-6:30 p.m.
June 12	Las Cruces, City Council Chambers, 200 N. Church Street	4:00-6:00 p.m.

For more information about these mental health and substance abuse forums please call 505 827-3154.