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Presbyterian Health Plan, Rio Grande Behavioral Health Reach Agreement to Continue to Serve Presbyterian Salud Members

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. -- Presbyterian Health Plan and Rio Grande Behavioral Health jointly announced today that they have reached a new agreement to give Presbyterian Salud (Medicaid) members access to behavioral health outpatient services provided by Rio Grande Behavioral Health in 19 southern counties.

The agreement was effective on October 1, and will mean that the 60,000 Presbyterian Salud members in southern New Mexico will have access to behavioral health services from Rio Grande as well as the other practitioners in the Presbyterian network.

"We are pleased to announce that our Salud members will once again have access to the care provided by Rio Grande Behavioral Health, as well as our other behavioral health practitioners. This agreement would not have been possible without all sides focusing on the needs of the Salud members and balancing the current budget realities of Salud. Today's agreement would certainly not have been possible without the determined efforts of Governor Richardson, Lieutenant Governor Diane Denish and Secretary Pam Hyde in looking for solutions and common ground," said David R. Scrase, M.D., president of Presbyterian Health Plan.

"Rio Grande is pleased that Presbyterian's Medicaid Salud members who need behavioral health services will again be able to benefit from the services provided by its agencies in southern New Mexico. Governor Richardson's dedication to ensuring the delivery of quality behavioral health services was instrumental in helping the parties reach a resolution," said Roque Garcia, CEO of Rio Grande Behavioral Health Services.

"This is indeed good news for many of southern New Mexico's Medicaid recipients, as it is our commitment to continue to provide quality health care services for our clients there," said HSD Deputy Secretary Liz Stefanics.

Presbyterian Salud members with behavioral health questions may call Presbyterian Salud Behavioral Health Care at 1-866-869-6224, Monday through Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 PM. For calls after 5:00 PM Monday through Friday, or on weekends, members may call 1-800-998-2383 to contact the Presbyterian behavioral health answering service for assistance.

Rio Grande Behavioral Health Services is a not-for-profit network of community mental health agencies with approximately 1300 employees, which serves nineteen New Mexico counties.

Presbyterian Health Plan is part of Presbyterian Healthcare Services, the state's only private, not-for-profit healthcare system. Presbyterian serves to improve the health of individuals, families and communities. Presbyterian Healthcare Services was founded in New Mexico in 1908, and employs more than 7,500 people throughout New Mexico