



NEW MEXICO HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT
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Governor

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For Immediate Release

Governor Richardson Wants You on the State Behavioral Health Planning Council

Santa Fe, April 6, 2004 – The deadline to apply for a spot on the Behavioral Health Planning Council (BHPC) is this Friday, April 9. The creation of the BHPC is part of Governor Richardson's effort to streamline mental health and substance abuse services. The Interagency Behavioral Health Purchasing Collaborative (IBHPC) bill HB271, signed by Governor Richardson last month, calls for a BHPC. The Governor will appoint its members whose responsibilities will be:

- Advocating for adults, children and adolescents with serious mental illness or severe emotional, neurobiological and behavioral disorders, as well as those with mental illness or emotional problems, including substance abuse and co-occurring disorders;
- Reporting to the governor and Legislature on the adequacy and allocation of mental health services throughout the state;
- Encouraging and supporting the development of a comprehensive, integrated community-based behavioral health system of care, including mental health and substance abuse services and services for persons with co-occurring disorders;
- Advising state agencies responsible for behavioral health services for children and adults, and;
- Reviewing and make recommendations to various plans and applications for the funding of behavioral health services, including Medicaid services.

The Governor's office is seeking interested consumers, family members, advocates, direct providers of services and others for participation on the council. "The BHPC will play an important role in advising the IBHPC in their efforts of strengthening collaboration and coordination in state and local services for mental health and substance abuse," said Pamela Hyde, Human Services Department Secretary.

Applications for general membership and Native American representation can be found at <http://www.state.nm.us/hsd/bhdw.html> or <http://www.nmcares.org/bhplanningcouncil.asp>, or by contacting the Behavioral Health Services Division/Department of Health at (505) 827-2601.

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