



**NEW MEXICO  
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENTS**

**P.O. Box 2348  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-2348**

**Bill Richardson**  
*Governor*

**Patricia Montoya, RN, MPA**  
Department of Health Secretary  
**Pamela S. Hyde, J.D.**  
Human Services Department Secretary  
**Mary Dale Bolson, Ph.D.**  
Children, Youth and Families Secretary  
**Michelle Lujan Grisham, J.D.**  
Aging and Long-Term Services Secretary

**For Immediate Release**

---

For more information contact:  
Betina Gonzales McCracken, HSD Communications Director 505-827-6245

**A Momentous Day in New Mexico as State Agencies Sign an Agreement to Improve New Mexico’s Behavioral Health System of Care**

*Santa Fe, June 16, 2004*– New Mexico’s efforts in creating an innovative system for mental health and substance abuse treatment took a giant step forward last week when 15 state agencies and the Governor’s Health Policy Coordinator came together to sign a Memorandum of Understanding. The meeting was described as “momentous”, by Human Services Department (HSD) Secretary Pamela Hyde, who later wrote to those involved “I hope everyone has a sense of how incredibly historic that event was for New Mexico and for the nation, but especially for individuals and families with behavioral health needs.”

The first meeting of the New Mexico Interagency Behavioral Health Purchasing Collaborative (Purchasing Collaborative) took place in Santa Fe on Friday, June 11. Agencies of all sizes were at the table to help make a difference in behavioral health and the lives of New Mexico’s citizens. “We want to create a system that will function into the future. A system where everyone has a voice,” said Pam Martin, Director of Behavioral Health Services Division at the Department of Health. “This is a single collaborative way of thinking.”

The Purchasing Collaborative will braid, blend and coordinate state and federal funding to ensure that Behavioral Health consumers are receiving better services, better access to those services and that taxpayers are seeing a better use of their dollars. “This is something that the nation has its eyes on,” said Ken Martinez, State Children’s Behavioral Health Director, Children, Youth and Families Department. “New Mexico is doing something nobody else has ever done. There are a lot of people around the country watching this effort and thinking we might be able to make a real positive change for people with mental health and substance abuse needs in our state, especially children.”

The main charge of the first Purchasing Collaborative meeting was to review, amend and sign the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which contains the guidelines by which the Collaborative will operate. “I want to thank everyone for coming to the table for this tremendous effort,” said Patricia Montoya, DOH Secretary who co-chairs the Purchasing Collaborative with Hyde. “Without cooperation among all state agencies, New Mexicans would not have the opportunity for better Behavioral Health services.”

The Purchasing Collaborative was one of Governor Richardson's Health Care priorities during the past legislative session and will play an essential part in the state's efforts to combat DWI and substance abuse through treatment. Rep. Edward Sandoval sponsored HB 271.

The new system is scheduled to be operating by July 2005. "That will be phase one of the whole process," said Leslie Tremaine of HSD who is coordinating this effort. "And our goal at that time is to make sure services are being provided and providers are being paid. By phase three in 2008 we hope to see a matured system." Timelines to meet the July 1<sup>st</sup> deadline are as follows:

- March 2004 - Draft concept Paper Out for Review
- Spring & Summer 2004 - Federal Approval Processes
- Summer 2004 - Draft Request For Proposal (RFP)
- Fall 2004 - Final RFP out for Bid
- Winter 2004- Vendor Selection
- Spring 2005- Transition and Contracting
- July 1, 2005 - New System Operating

**A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding for the Purchasing Collaborative is attached.**

**For more information on the Purchasing Collaborative concept, meetings, minutes and much more please log on to the HSD Behavioral Health website at <http://www.state.nm.us/hsd/bhdwg/index.html>.**