

New Mexico Interagency Behavioral Health Purchasing Collaborative

Innovative Thinking, Collaborative Planning and Funding



Aging and Long-Term Services Department

Administrative Office of the Courts

Children, Youth and Families Department

New Mexico Corrections Department

Department of Finance and Administration

Department of Health

Department of Transportation

Developmental Disabilities Planning Council

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

Governor's Commission on Disability

Governor's Health Policy Coordinator

Health Policy Commission

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Public Education Department

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For Immediate Release

New Mexico's Behavioral Health Collaborative Selects ValueOptions as Statewide Entity Final Transition to the New Behavioral Health System in Progress

Santa Fe, April 1, 2005 - Today the Interagency Behavioral Health Purchasing Collaborative (Collaborative) officially selected the Statewide Entity (SE) that will partner with New Mexico in its efforts to improve behavioral health service. ValueOptions is the successful bidder and has been chosen as the SE, which will oversee mental health and substance abuse programs offered by 15 state agencies. This selection resulted from a successful month long contract negotiation process with ValueOptions.

ValueOptions will be managing combined funds of approximately \$300 to \$350 million through the different state agencies that offer behavioral health services, including the large Medicaid program, the federal mental health and substance abuse block grants, the Children, Youth and Families behavioral health funds and the Community Corrections behavioral health funds. "From the very beginning of this redesign process, the Collaborative was clear that we were looking for a true partner in streamlining behavioral health services, and I believe we've found that with ValueOptions," said Pamela Hyde, Human Services Department Secretary.

The selection process was a careful and objective process that involved the Collaborative leadership, staff, the Behavioral Health Planning Council, providers and consumers and their families. "This same group of people will work with the SE and move the state into the final transition of the new system scheduled to begin July 1, 2005," said Michelle Lujan Grisham, Department of Health Secretary, who co-chairs the Collaborative with Secretary Hyde.

Last month, after determining that ValueOptions presented the best overall written proposal and oral presentation, the Collaborative asked ValueOptions to participate in contract negotiations. "The contract negotiations gave us the opportunity to go over the fine details of the system and assure effective monitoring of state resources for recovery and resilience," said Leslie Tremaine, Behavioral Health Manager.

Managing behavioral health systems is nothing new to ValueOptions, as they've managed programs in other states, such as Colorado, Texas, Connecticut and Massachusetts. However, the system created here is unlike any other system in the United States. "We've designed a system that fits the unique needs of New Mexicans. What works in other states just wouldn't work here," said Catherine Cross Maple, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Assistant Secretary.

Between now and July 1, the focus will be to ensure the state, consumers and providers are ready for the new system. "We agree with the Collaborative that when the new system begins, we want to make sure people continue to get served, providers continue to get paid, data continues to get reported and quality standards continue to be maintained," said Pam Galbraith, newly named Chief Executive Officer for ValueOptions, currently University of New Mexico Health Services Center Administrator for Behavioral Health Hospitals and Programs.

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“We expect the state to hold us to high performance standards, and we fully expect to perform,” added Galbraith.

Part of the readiness plan includes public meetings in all six Regions of the state, including a specific meeting with the Native American population, in April and May. “We are encouraging anyone and everyone interested in learning more about the changes ahead to attend one of the meetings,” said Mary-Dale Bolson, Children, Youth and Families Department Secretary. “We want to make sure the transition process is as smooth as possible for consumers, their families and providers across New Mexico.”

The public meetings will be held on the following dates and locations.

- April 8, 10 am – 2 pm Corbett Center, NMSU, Las Cruces (Region V)
- April 12, 9am – 12 noon Apodaca Hall, PERA Building, Santa Fe (Region II)
- April 14, 1 pm – 4 pm Civic Center, Farmington (Region I)
- April 21, 1:30 pm – 4:30 pm Embassy Suites, Albuquerque (Native American Region VI)
- April 27, 9 am – 12 noon Sheraton Uptown, Albuquerque (Region III)
- May 5, 9 am – 12 noon Roswell Library Auditorium, Roswell (Region IV)

Information about the Collaborative and the new behavioral health system can be found at the following website. <http://www.state.nm.us/hsd/bhdwg/>

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