

New Mexico Interagency Behavioral Health Purchasing Collaborative

Collaboration for Recovery, Resiliency and Empowerment



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 Labor

Department of Transportation

Developmental Disabilities Planning Council

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

Governor's Commission on Disability

Governor's Health Policy Advisor

Health Policy Commission

Human Services Department

Indian Affairs Department

Mortgage Finance Authority

Public Education Department

PO Box 2348
Santa Fe, NM
87504-2348

Contact Betina Gonzales McCracken 505-827-6245 or 505-699-4675

For Immediate Release

Governor's Behavioral Health Czar Taking New Position in California

Santa Fe, May 12, 2006— Governor Bill Richardson's Behavioral Health Czar and coordinator of the Behavioral Health Collaborative, Leslie Tremaine, will be leaving New Mexico to become County Director of Mental Health in Santa Cruz County, California. "Leslie has been instrumental in guiding New Mexico in the nation's first new system of care for people affected by mental illness and substance abuse," said Governor Richardson. "We thank her for her important work and commitment and wish her the best in her new position in California."

Tremaine came to New Mexico in 2004 as the state was in the midst of redesigning the way publicly-funded behavioral health services among 15 state agencies are managed. "I was excited and challenged to come and work on a project that has not been attempted in any other state," said Tremaine. "I feel that I accomplished what I set out to do, which was to create real collaboration particularly with consumers of services and public agencies. That environment now exists and there are lots of good people that can carry forward the next phase of this transition."

Tremaine will remain in New Mexico through June to help move phase two of the new behavioral health system of care forward. "Leslie is very dedicated and will make sure New Mexico remains in great shape before she takes on the next challenge of her career in California," said Pamela Hyde, Human Services Department Secretary and co-chair of the Collaborative. The state will begin a search for Tremaine's replacement.

Leslie, who was born and raised in Santa Cruz is excited to return to where her career started. "I have been honored to have participated in an innovative way of changing services for behavioral health consumers, family members, providers, advocates and community groups in New Mexico, but I am excited to complete my career where my heart is, closer to people who need the services and in an area that I love," said Tremaine.

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