

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

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For Immediate Release

Governor Bill Richardson Names Interim Behavioral Health Czar

Santa Fe, June 8, 2006 – Today Governor Bill Richardson named Steve Johnson as the interim Behavioral Health Czar and Chief Executive Officer of the Behavioral Health Collaborative. “Steve will be filling a very important role,” said Governor Richardson. “He will continue to help New Mexico in its efforts to change and improve the way mental health and substance abuse services are provided among 15 state agencies; a change the nation is watching as no other state has attempted this before.”

Johnson most recently served as the Executive Director of the All Faiths Receiving Home in Albuquerque, where he worked for the past 22 years. He is a Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor and Licensed Social Worker. He also served as the co-chair of the statewide Youth Provider Alliance, and vice-chair of the Governor's Behavioral Health Planning Council, the primary advisory body for New Mexico's new behavioral health system of care. “I have been part of the new behavioral health collaborative efforts in New Mexico from the beginning, and am honored to be offered this opportunity,” said Johnson. “I am a strong believer in the goals of this effort and the inherent potential for improving the lives of children, adults and families.”

Johnson will transition into his interim position beginning in July with the help of current Behavioral Health Czar, Leslie Tremaine, who is leaving New Mexico to become County Director of Mental Health in Santa Cruz County, California. “I am pleased Steve has agreed to help us during the interim,” said Pamela Hyde, Human Services Department Secretary and Co-Chair of the Collaborative. “Steve has done an excellent job as a member of the Behavioral Health Planning Council and comes with a great deal of knowledge to help us continue to move this new behavioral health system of care forward.”

A national and local search for a permanent Behavioral Health Czar and Chief Executive Officer of the Behavioral Health Collaborative will continue.

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