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**For Immediate Release**

## **Legislation to Create a State-of-the-Art Substance Abuse Treatment and Training Facility Introduced in the New Mexico Legislature**

### **Facility is Part of Governor Bill Richardson's Agenda to Combat Substance Abuse, including Methamphetamine, in New Mexico**

*Santa Fe, January 26, 2007* – Legislation has been introduced in the House of Representatives that would fund a state-of-the-art substance abuse treatment and training facility in Los Lunas.

**House Bill (HB) 514 - Los Lunas Substance Abuse Facility**, co-sponsored by Representatives Andrew Barreras and Elias Barela, appropriates \$2 million to fund the operations of the treatment and training facility, currently the former Department of Health State Hospital in Los Lunas. Services available through this new program will include:

- 16-28 residential beds,
- Community-based and outpatient services,
- Telehealth capacity to support smaller communities through consultation and distance learning, and
- Other training and support for the treatment and law enforcement workforce throughout New Mexico who are dealing with substance abusers in courts, on the streets and in treatment programs.

The facility will serve people all across New Mexico with a special focus on the central part of the state, and will be the centerpiece for substance abuse (including methamphetamine) treatment and law enforcement training efforts.

“During Fiscal Year 2006, 4,054 people were treated for substance abuse through the Behavioral Health Collaborative (Collaborative) funding, and already this current fiscal year that number is at 2,559,” said Secretary Pamela Hyde, Human Services Department and co-chair of the Collaborative. “There is a big need for a state-of-the-art facility in New Mexico to help those who need treatment, while the law enforcement workforce gets the opportunity to get training on this growing problem plaguing communities across the state.”

The Los Lunas Substance Abuse Treatment and Training Facility will be a public/private partnership, with a panel of local and national experts participating in planning the program. An additional \$7 million is requested in the Executive budget to help repair and remodel the facility, which has been unoccupied for 10 years.

HB 514 has been referred to the House Judiciary Committee and the House Appropriations and Finance Committee.

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