

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 Workforce Solutions

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

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Public Education Department

PO Box 2348
Santa Fe, NM
87504-2348

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Contact: Erica Asmus-Otero (505) 476-7124

Actress Patty Duke in Santa Fe on Saturday to Discuss Mental Health, Reducing Stigma

Event to Follow, Featuring 'Soul Deacons' Band

SANTA FE, NM – Academy award-winning actress, best selling author and mental health advocate Patty Duke will speak about her personal experience with mental illness along with public stigma and other mental health related topics in Santa Fe on Saturday, November 10.

The event is hosted by The Life Link, a Santa Fe nonprofit group that assists people who are coping with mental illness, addiction and homelessness.

“The Life Link provides practical solutions and, along with the Behavioral Health Collaborative, unwavering hope of recovery,” said Duke. I'm eager to meet and learn from both of them.”

The New Mexico Behavioral Health Collaborative (Collaborative) partners with The Life Link as the fiscal agent for local collaboratives and is pleased to participate in the event. The state's Behavioral Health Collaborative CEO and Czar Linda Roebuck will be in attendance.

“I commend Ms. Duke's efforts in trying to reduce the public stigma that often surrounds mental health issues by demonstrating that the road towards resiliency and recovery is possible,” said Roebuck. “The Behavioral Health Collaborative shares a similar mission of educating the public while coordinating with other behavioral health entities to improve mental health and substance abuse services in the State.”

The Collaborative, the only one of its kind in the country, was created during the 2004 Legislature to allow most state agencies and resources involved in behavioral health treatment and recovery to work as one in an effort to improve mental health and substance abuse services in New Mexico. This cabinet-level group represents 15 agencies and Governor Bill Richardson's office.

Known mainly for her acting roles in *The Miracle Worker* and *The Patty Duke Show*, Duke was diagnosed in 1982 with Bipolar Disorder. Along with a number of books on her journey of recovery from Bipolar Disorder, Duke has launched an Online Center for Mental Wellness (www.pattyduke.net) and most recently appeared on the Oprah Show to raise awareness about Bipolar and other mental health disorders. Duke is also a member of the Center for Mental Health Services National Advisory Council.

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Duke will speak about recovery and overcoming the stigma of mental illness as well as sign her most recent book, "A Brilliant Madness," beginning at 2:00 p.m. on November 10 at The Life Link, located at 2325 Cerrillos Road in Santa Fe.

A special reception will be held later that evening at Vanessie restaurant from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., with Duke scheduled to speak around 9:00 p.m. and sign books later. Prior to Duke's appearance, local contemporary band, "E. Clayton and the Soul Deacons" will perform at the nearby Lensic at 8:30 p.m.

Tickets for the Lensic performance range from \$15 to \$45. Special seating and reception tickets to meet Duke are \$150. All ticket sales directly benefit The Life Link and can be purchased through the Lensic Box Office by calling (505) 988-1234.

It is estimated that 370,000 New Mexicans suffer from some form of mental illness including depression. Of those, 71,000 adults have a serious mental illness, which includes individuals with schizophrenia, manic depression, major depression, panic disorder, and obsessive-compulsive disorder. In addition, there are nearly 19,000 children and adolescents in New Mexico with a severe emotional disturbance.

For more information on the event, Carol Luna-Anderson at (505) 438-0100 or carol@thelifelink.org. For information on the Behavioral Health Collaborative, visit www.bhc.state.nm.us.

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