



NEW MEXICO HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
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For Immediate Release

## **Behavioral Health Services Division Now Part of The Human Services Department**

### **Move Part of Governor Richardson's Initiative to Help Streamline Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services**

*Santa Fe, July 3, 2007* – The Human Services Department (HSD) is now home to the Behavioral Health Services Division (BHSD). “The department is excited to have the Behavioral Health Services Division joining our team,” said Pamela Hyde, HSD Secretary. “We look forward to more closely ensuring mental health and substance abuse services are part of the strategy to close the uninsured gap in New Mexico and open up more possibilities to maximize Medicaid funding for behavioral health services.”

The move from the Department of Health (DOH) to HSD is part of a Governor Bill Richardson's initiative to help streamline mental health and substance abuse services for adults. During the 2007 legislative session HB 371a – Transfer Behavioral Health Services Division sponsored by Representative Edward Sandoval, was unanimously approved by the legislature and signed by the Governor.

The transfer allows the focus of substance abuse prevention to remain with DOH, while the focus of improving access to behavioral health services statewide to occur through HSD.

The BHSD has a staff of 49 and a Fiscal Year 2008 Operating Budget of \$59 million. Some of the programs available through BHSD include:

- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Block Grant
- Prevention and Treatment Services
- Co-occurring Disorder Services
- Sexual Assault Services
- Specialized Women's Services
- Behavioral Health Services for Veterans
- Office of Consumer Affairs
- Staff the Behavioral Health Planning Council
- Evidence Based Practice Training and Technical Assistance

HSD is the lead agency for both the New Mexico Interagency Behavioral Health Purchasing Collaborative (Collaborative) and efforts to close the uninsured gap through *Insure New Mexico!* The Collaborative is a cabinet-level group that represents 15 agencies and the Governor's office, which works as one to improve mental health and substance abuse services in New Mexico.

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