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For Immediate Release

Behavioral Health Services Division Seeks Public Comment for Federal Mental Health Services Funding

Comments Received by August 9 to be Incorporated into Plan

Santa Fe, August 3, 2007 – The Human Services Department’s (HSD) Behavioral Health Services Division (BHSD) is asking for public comment on the 2008 Community and Mental Health Services (CMHS) Block Grant application.

The application is posted on the HSD website at www.hsd.state.nm.us under “What’s new at HSD.” Public comments are due August 9, 2007 and should be submitted by e-mail to marie.dibianco@state.nm.us.

The CMHS Block Grant, which could range between \$2 and \$3 million, supports existing public services for children and adults and encourages the development of creative and cost-effective systems for community-based care for people diagnosed with a mental health disorder.

The 2008 plan focuses on improvements to access for community-based systems as well as reflects the transformation that New Mexico has been undergoing over the past several years through the Interagency Behavioral Health Purchasing Collaborative (Collaborative).

The Collaborative is a cabinet-level group that represents 15 agencies and the Governor’s office, which works as one to improve publicly-funded mental health and substance abuse services in New Mexico.

The CMHS Block Grant is one of the key funding streams being used in the transformation.

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