

# 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

Mortgage Finance Authority

Public Education Department

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## ‘Behavioral Health Day’ at Legislature Brings Light to Mental Health, Substance Abuse Issues *FY09 Budget Requests, ‘Stars,’ Focus of Day*

SANTA FE – Lieutenant Governor Diane Denish, Senator Mary Kay Papen (D-Doña Ana), members of the Behavioral Health Collaborative (Collaborative), consumers and families participated in the second annual Behavioral Health Day at the Legislature today from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

For the second year, Senator Papen and Representative Edward Sandoval (D-Bernalillo) sponsored a joint memorial designating January 21 as “Behavioral Health Day at the Legislature.” Senate Joint Memorial 6 and the House duplicate memorial “honors the many individuals who devote themselves to public policymaking on behalf of the thousands of voiceless New Mexicans who suffer from behavioral health disorders.”

During a 1:30 p.m. news conference, certificates of recognition were presented to 28 “stars” – a mixture of consumers and family members throughout the state who have consistently gone above and beyond what is required in order to be an effective leader of his/her local collaborative.

“In order to gain a better understanding of behavioral health, mental health and substance abuse issues, it is vital to raise awareness to help foster recovery and resiliency for those who are touched by these issues,” said Lt Governor Denish.

“Again in this legislative session the Governor is proposing millions of dollars to help improve behavioral health services for New Mexicans,” said Pamela Hyde, HSD Secretary and co-chair of the Collaborative. “This funding will build on the programs we have already begun, including a pilot program to help our armed forces members get post traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury services, as well as a substance abuse treatment and training facility in Los Lunas, to name a few.”

“CYFD provides an array of behavioral health services in partnership with the state’s Behavioral Health Purchasing collaborative,” said Dorian Dodson, Secretary of Children, Youth and Families Department. “We strive to strengthen families through Home Visiting programs that target first-time parents, infant mental health programs, and behavioral health services for youth who are involved with juvenile justice or protective services, and tribal social services.”

“We’ve made many great strides in the past few years, and are working hard to continue our progress,” said Linda Roebuck, CEO of the Collaborative. “In order to do this, we need support to improve services for consumers and family members who need our help to ensure that their road to recovery and resiliency is made easier.”

(more)

Governor Richardson's Budget request for Fiscal Year 2009 includes nearly \$10 million in funding for behavioral health expansion items, which include mental health and drug courts for youth and adults, Intensive Outpatient Services, post traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury, among others.

With more than 30 informational booths at the event which was held in the Capitol Rotunda, Behavioral Health Day at the Legislature provides an opportunity to learn more about behavioral health and substance abuse issues that are estimated to affect more than 370,000 New Mexicans.

The Behavioral Health Collaborative 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. There are 15 local collaboratives throughout the state, which consist of consumers and family members who represent the interests of their collaboratives.

It is estimated that more than 300 people attended Behavioral Health Day. Last year, in its inaugural year, there were more than 200.

For more information on Behavioral Health Day or the Behavioral Health Collaborative, contact Erica Asmus-Otero at (505) 476-7124 or visit the Collaborative's website at [www.bhc.state.nm.us](http://www.bhc.state.nm.us).

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