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 For Immediate Release July 17, 2008 Contact: Betina Gonzales McCracken (505) 827-6245

Behavioral Health Collaborative to Meet in Taos on Thursday, July 24

SANTA FE - The New Mexico Behavioral Health Purchasing Collaborative (Collaborative) will hold its monthly meeting in Taos on Thursday, July 24 beginning at 12:00 p.m. with a pre-meeting for updates and the regular meeting held from 12:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Town of Taos Convention Center , Rio Grande Hall, Section A, 121 Civic Plaza Drive in Taos.

The Collaborative has been scheduling its monthly meetings across the state, and for the first time will the meeting in Taos. "The Collaborative recognizes the difficulty for those interested in mental illness and substance abuse issues to make it to Santa Fe where we regularly meet," said Collaborative CEO, Linda Roebuck. "We hope to accommodate more consumers, family members and providers in the Taos area and improve participation and understanding of New Mexico's behavioral health transformation process."

There will be an executive closed session from 12:40 to 1:40 p.m. to discuss the Request for Proposals (RFP) for the next behavioral health contractor or statewide entity. The RFP is due for release by July 31.

Topics during the pre-meeting and regular meeting include:

- Expansion Process for additional Native American local collaboratives
- Discussion of RFP Evaluation process
- Total Community Approach
- Behavioral Health Planning Council report
- Developmental Disability/Mental Illness process
- Public Input

The complete agenda for Thursday's meeting will be posted on the Collaborative website at <u>www.bhc.state.nm.us</u> under the "public meeting calendar" section. Collaborative meetings are typically scheduled the fourth Thursday of each month.

About the Collaborative

The 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. This cabinet-level group represents 15 agencies and Governor Bill Richardson's office.