

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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New Mexico Awarded \$1.9 Million Grant for Veterans First Jail Diversion Project

Project Will Expand and Enhance Treatment for Veterans and Others Involved in Criminal Justice

Santa Fe, New Mexico – Governor Richardson is pleased to announce that New Mexico has been awarded a five year Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) grant for a total of \$1,970,000 (\$394,000 per year) for the *Veterans First Jail Diversion Project*.

“This grant will help New Mexico continue to focus on treatment and increased access to services for Veterans, particularly Native Americans and others living in the rural areas of our State,” said Governor Bill Richardson.

The grant allows New Mexico to build on the current Veterans Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and jail diversion pilot in Sandoval County. The *Veterans First Jail Diversion Project* will expand and enhance treatment for Veterans and others with serious mental illness and co-occurring substance use disorders who are involved in criminal justice. The goals of the project are to:

1. Divert people with trauma spectrum disorders from the justice system by increasing recognition of Serious Mental Illness (SMI) and reactions to trauma by law enforcement agencies and courts,
2. Build capacity to provide appropriate behavioral health services in order to prevent the identified population from returning to the justice system, and
3. Support a sustainable trauma informed treatment approach.

“Achievement of these goals will provide meaningful, relevant, and measurable results such as increased awareness of trauma, serious mental illness, and co-occurring disorders by members of the judicial system,” said Linda Roebuck Homer, Collaborative CEO. “It will also increase the number of individuals diverted from corrections to treatment and increased access to services for veterans.”

The *Veterans First Jail Diversion Project* is a collaborative effort between Governor Bill Richardson’s office, the Human Services Department’s Behavioral Health Services Division, the department of Veterans Services, the Veterans Administration Medical Center, Presbyterian medical Services and the NM Consortium for Behavioral Health Training and Research.

The SAMHSA grant is expected to serve 40 unduplicated individuals participating in the *Veterans First Jail Diversion Project* annually and 200 individuals over the five years of the grant.

About the Collaborative

The Collaborative was created in 2004 by the Governor and the 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.

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