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Governor Bill Richardson Breaks Ground on the Los Lunas Substance Abuse Treatment and Training Center

Some Services Already Being Provided by Partners in Wellness

LOS LUNAS –Governor Bill Richardson today joined local officials and lawmakers to break ground on the site of what will be a state-of-the-art substance abuse treatment and training center for New Mexico.

“The Los Lunas Substance Abuse Treatment and Training Center will be instrumental in combating substance abuse issues that are taking a toll on New Mexico communities,” said Governor Richardson. “The first phase of this project will bring intensive outpatient treatment services to an area that is in desperate need of services for men, women and adolescents dealing with substance abuse issues.”

The Center will be located on state land on Morris Road near State Road 314 in Los Lunas, across from the new Valencia County Judicial Complex. “The design of the center and its programs will be set up to work collaboratively with law enforcement, the judicial system, probation and parole, Isleta Pueblo and all community agencies to have the greatest possible impact on the communities surrounding Los Lunas and Belen and the rest of the state,” said State Senator Michael Sanchez who strongly supported funding for the Center.

“Public input, including public meetings and a planning committee made up of community stakeholders and experts from around the state, helped design the Center to ensure it will meet the needs of the community,” said Louis Thorp, Partners in Wellness who will be managing and operating the Center. Partners in Wellness are already providing community based outpatient treatment and linkage services in Valencia County through the Human Services’ Income Support Division office in Los Lunas.

The Center is scheduled to be open in phases. The first phase is the Intensive Outpatient Treatment Services, which will provide nine to 12 hours of treatment per week for individuals with severe addiction disorders and individuals with co-occurring psychiatric and substance use disorders. The projected annual capacity is 840 men, women and adolescents. Also included in the first phase is a Training Center within the Intensive Outpatient Program facility that will be used to conduct trainings for up to 1,200 law enforcement, judicial system and behavioral health providers annually. The projected opening for the first phase is January 2011.

The second phase is the Women's Residential Treatment Service Component that will have 16 beds for women, with up to 24 children, in treatment.

Funding for the Center comes from the State General Fund and Severance Tax bonds appropriated by the Legislature and approved by the Governor during Fiscal Year's 2008, 2009 and 2010. The total appropriated to date to plan, design, furnish and construct the Center is \$11.55 million. Services provided will be paid with Medicaid and existing General Fund substance abuse treatment dollars.

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