

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 November 5, 2009

Contact: Betina Gonzales McCracken (505) 476-6205

2009 Behavioral Health Collaborative Conference to Address the Epidemic of Premature Death in Persons with Serious Mental Illness

SANTA FE – The 2009 Behavioral Health Collaborative Conference *Real People, Real Lives* will address the epidemic of premature death in persons with Serious Mental Illness (SMI) and the subsequent importance of integrating behavioral health treatment and primary care. The four-day conference is December 8-11, 2009 at the Embassy Suites in Albuquerque.

The keynote speaker on Tuesday, December 8, 2009, **Thomas McLellan, Ph.D.**, CEO of the Treatment Research Institute and Deputy Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy will focus his discussion on integrating substance abuse treatment and primary care.

On Wednesday, December 9, 2009 **Joe Parks, MD**, Medical Director Missouri Department of Mental Health will lead the workshop: An Avoidable Tragedy: The Relationship of Premature Death and Serious Mental Illness.

“Persons with mental illness die an average of 25 years younger than the general population,” said Parks, MD “Over 80 percent of the years of life lost are due to preventable and treatable medical illness such as diabetes and heart disease”

On Thursday, December 10, 2009 the workshop: Behavioral Health in the Medical Home: Challenges and Opportunities will focus on how to make integration of primary care and behavioral health model a reality in New Mexico. Answers will be coming from an esteemed panel of state primary care leaders who have successfully integrated behavioral health into their primary care systems.

The conference has applied for Continuing Education approval from several professions and boards.

Early bird registration ends November 21, 2009. Four-day attendance registration, which includes Ethics or Cultural Competency Training, is \$260, three-day attendance registration is \$169 and one day attendance registration is \$80. Registration scholarships are available for providers and educators, family members and youth.

For complete information about the conference, agenda, registration, continuing education, and more please visit the conference website at www.bhcollaborative.org or contact Harrison Kinney at Harrison.kinney@state.nm.us

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.

###