

# 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

PO Box 2348  
Santa Fe, NM  
87504-2348

Contact: Marty Eckert (505) 670-1683

**February 19, 2009**  
**For Immediate Release**

## **‘Behavioral Health Day’ at Legislature Celebrates Those Who Have Overcome Mental Health/Substance Abuse Problems**

**SANTA FE** – Behavioral Health (BH) Day at the Legislature is Thursday, Feb. 26, 2009 in the State Capitol Rotunda. Highlighting this year’s event is the honoring of 18 New Mexicans who are both recovering from serious behavioral health problems and have become leaders, mentors and strong advocates to improve behavioral health care here.

These seven women and 11 men will come to the state Capitol on Feb. 26 from large and small communities, Native American nations, tribes and pueblos from across the state to be honored and receive certificates signed by Governor Bill Richardson.

Pamela Hyde, Human Services Department Cabinet Secretary, co-chair of the BH Purchasing Collaborative and a leading national expert in the field of BH services will speak during the formal part of Behavior Health Day.

Other Collaborative members scheduled to speak are Dorian Dodson, Children, Youth and Families Department Secretary, Dr. Alfredo Vigil, Department of Health Secretary and Alvin Warren, Dept. of Indian Affairs Secretary. Governor Bill Richardson and Lt. Governor Diane Denish have been invited to attend the formal part of the event beginning at 11 a.m., on Feb. 26.

For the third straight year, Senator Mary Kay Papen is leading the way in the Legislature to improve publicly-funded BH services by sponsoring Senate Joint Memorial 22 designating Feb. 26 as Behavioral Health Day at the Legislature. “As in other years, this Senate Memorial serves to remind everyone what so many with behavioral health problems have to deal with. This includes the stigma of living with a mental illness and the lack of understanding from family, friends and the general public,” said Papen. “Others have had to breach barriers that have stood in their way like government rules and regulations and the shortage of qualified provider services.”

Linda Roebuck, CEO, BH Purchasing Collaborative is scheduled to present the certificates during the awards presentations. “I hope other people at the Capitol on Feb. 26 remember to take the time to meet these 18 strong New Mexicans being honored for their truly great achievements. Now they are continuing this never ending struggle by helping others to get them back on their feet again,” said Roebuck.

(more)

During Behavioral Health Day there will also be 24 information booths in the Rotunda for state agencies, healthcare organizations and organizations that specialize in treating those needing mental and substance abuse services to answer questions from and handout materials.

Last year, 80,254 people received behavioral health services through the NM Behavioral Health Purchasing Collaborative.

***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.

###