

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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Behavioral Health Collaborative Moves Forward with OptumHealth New Mexico Contract

District Court Denies ValueOptions Requests for Relief

SANTA FE – The New Mexico Behavioral Health Purchasing Collaborative (Collaborative) has decided to move forward with the procurement process for the next behavioral health services contractor, OptumHealth New Mexico.

On January 22, 2009 the Collaborative awarded OptumHealth the contract for the next statewide entity. The decision was based on recommendations from the RFP Evaluation Team that found OptumHealth's technical proposal was overall far above the other bidders.

The current statewide entity, ValueOptions has filed a protest of the procurement process and has also filed a lawsuit, requesting a stay, or a stop to the procurement process until a decision on the protest is final.

Yesterday's decision by the Collaborative was based on the need to allow the state and OptumHealth to continue the transition process that must take place to allow OptumHealth ample opportunity to be prepared to take over July 1, 2009, and assure there is no disruption in services for the thousands of New Mexicans who receive publicly funded behavioral health services.

Last week the First Judicial District Court refused to grant almost all of ValueOptions requested relief. Yesterday's Collaborative's decision should answer the one question the judge had, which is the pressing need to move forward with the contract process.

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.

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