

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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Governor Bill Richardson Proclaims May Mental Health Month

Celebrations Planned Throughout New Mexico

SANTA FE – Governor Bill Richardson has proclaimed May 2009 as *Mental Health Month* throughout the state of New Mexico.

“I call upon the citizens, government agencies, public and private institutions, businesses and schools in New Mexico to recognize the importance of mental health, as well as physical health and to commit our community to increasing awareness and understanding of mental health and the need for appropriate and accessible services for all people who have mental illnesses,” said Governor Richardson in the proclamation.

In any given year, mental illness will strike nearly one in four adults and children regardless of age, gender, race ethnicity, religion or economic status. “The important thing to know about mental health and substance abuse problems is that they are as treatable as many physical illnesses,” said Linda Roebuck, New Mexico Behavioral Health Collaborative CEO. “Receiving help is the first and most important step in recovery.”

The Behavioral Health Collaborative encourages community participation in Mental Health Month and several events are scheduled across the state. They include:

- **National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Walks for the Mind of America** – Saturday, May 2, 8:00 a.m. at Hoffmantown Church, 8888 Harper NE, just northeast of the Albuquerque Academy in Albuquerque
- **Third Annual Youth Poetry Slam** – Sunday, May 3, 2:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the West Side Community Center, 1201 Isleta Rd. SW in Albuquerque. This year’s theme is “Walk a Mile in My Shoes” in to prevent suicide, alcohol and substance abuse and raise awareness about available community services and resources.
- **Behavioral Health Delivery System Discussion with Linda Roebuck** – Wednesday, May 6, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the San Miguel Parish hall, 403 El Camino Real in Socorro. Join Collaborative CEO, Linda Roebuck for a discussion concerning the opportunities and challenges of the behavioral health care delivery systems in Judicial District Seven (Socorro, Torrance, Catron and Sierra Counties)
- **Children’s Mental Health Awareness Day**, Thursday, May 7, 2009
- **An Evening with Elyn Saks** – Tuesday, May 12, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at New Mexico State University Milton Hall, Room 85. A video-teleconference with Elyn Saks from the University of Southern California speaking on schizophrenia will be followed by questions from the audience
- **Youth Jam 2009!** – Saturday, May 23, 2:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Highland High School Performing Arts Center in Albuquerque. Free food, water and provider booths with information of what services are available in Bernalillo County.

(more)

- **Mental Health Outreach at Silver City Blues Fest** – Local Collaborative 6 (Luna, Hidalgo and Grant Counties) will reach out and inform the community members and others who attend the Silver City Blues Fest May 22-24 about mental health and mental health services.
- **Celebrate Recovery** – Thursday, June 11, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Las Cruces (specific location TBD). Local Collaborative 3 Invites Region 5 to Celebrate Recovery with 20 minute mini sessions, booths reports from Region 5 Local Collaboratives, lunch recognitions and more.

The Behavioral Health Collaborative will be unveiling its Behavioral Health Social Inclusion Campaign, “Talk About It New Mexico” on Monday, May 4 during a news conference at 11:00 a.m., at 37 Plaza La Prensa in Santa Fe.

People interested in getting involved in behavioral health activities in their area are encouraged to learn more about the Local Collaboratives. Details can be found at the following page on the Collaborative website, <http://www.bhc.state.nm.us/BHCollaborative/LCs.html>.

The Governor’s Proclamation of May Mental Health Month is below.

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.

