

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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February 17, 2011
For Immediate Release

'Behavioral Health Day' at the Legislature Celebrates 18 New Mexico Champions

SANTA FE – Today the NM State Legislature celebrated *Behavioral Health Day* at the Capitol and honored 18 New Mexicans or New Mexico groups as local champions of behavioral health in their communities. The 18 STARS were presented with certificates of appreciation signed by Governor Susana Martinez and Behavioral Health Collaborative CEO Linda Roebuck Homer.

“The 18 STARS from across New Mexico are excellent examples of how their dedication and commitment to improving substance abuse and mental health services have made a difference in their communities,” said Linda Roebuck Homer, Collaborative CEO.

The STARS are involved in the behavioral health system in various roles as consumers, family members, advocates, providers, and youth groups and even a community event, representing the 18 Local Collaboratives covering all areas of the state (see attached map). The 2011 Behavioral Health STARS are:

- **Martha Cooke** - Local Collaborative 1 – Ms. Cook, a parent of a child diagnosed with a mental illness, is active on the Children and Adolescent Subcommittee of the Behavioral Health Planning Council and was instrumental in beginning a Children's subcommittee in her Local Collaborative.
- **Local Collaborative 2** – Honorable Mention
- **Rodney Schuelke** – Local Collaborative 3 – Mr. Schuelke started the Healthier Life Styles Committee which is a consumer initiated, consumer organized, and consumer run committee that operates as a peer and personal support group that enables self advocacy for access to and improved community resources.
- **Thomas Garcia** – Local Collaborative 4 – Mr. Garcia has been a strong advocate and supporter since the inception of the Mora, San Miguel and Guadalupe local collaborative and has consistently made himself available to hear the concerns and actively work on solutions with the people and agencies in the communities.
- **Peggie Roberson** – Local Collaborative 5 – Ms. Roberson represents Local Collaborative 5 on the Behavioral Health Planning Council's Children's Subcommittee and the Native American subcommittee. She helped organize the Third Annual Children's Fair at the Spring River Zoo last summer in Roswell.
- **Conrad Bejarano** – Local Collaborative 6 – Mr. Bejarano is recognized for his hard work in maintaining a life free of substances for two years. He has maintained his employment and volunteers his time to speak to the children at the local middle and high schools in the Grant, Luna and Hidalgo County areas about his life.
- **Catron County Grassroots Behavioral Health Committee** – Local Collaborative 7 – The Catron County Grassroots Behavioral Health Committee was initiated in the Fall of 2008 with the dream to create a Wellness Center where those dealing with behavioral health challenges could meet and receive professional and consumer-run services. Since then, the group has trained consumers and community members in aspects of behavioral health, conducted an anti-stigma campaign, started a behavioral health HelpLine, created two support groups, and helped recruit new therapists to the County.

- **Rocky Mountain Youth Corps** – Local Collaborative 8 - Founded in 1995, the Rocky Mountain Youth Corps inspires young adults to make a difference in themselves and their communities. To date, Corps members completed 130 acres of forest restoration, 93 home energy audits, built 57 miles of trail and tutored 236 K-6 grade school children. They have provided 300,000 hours of service to their communities located in Taos, Mora, Colfax and Rio Arriba Counties.
- **Herman Pena** – Local Collaborative 9 – Mr. Pena is recognized for his continued dedication to the local collaborative and is a strong advocate for family members and consumers as it related to mental health awareness.
- **Paul Gauna** – Local Collaborative 10 – Mr. Gauna is recognized for his efforts to help others become clean and sober while he deals with his own conflicts. He is an active local collaborative 10 member, Chair for De Baca County and active in AA meetings.
- **Erick R. Niha** – Local Collaborative 11 – Erick is a youth member and former resident of the Childhaven Shelter. He focuses his participation on helping those youth who are still in the foster care system. He is a member of the Housing Leadership Group.
- **“Soberfest 2010”** – Local Collaborative 12 – “Soberfest 2010” was a drug and alcohol free sober celebration for National Recovery Month held on September 25, 2010 in Alamogordo. The event is recognized as being a potential model for future celebrations promoting friendship, goodwill, neighborly attitudes and healthy lifestyle choices for all members of the community.
- **Hank Adame** – Local Collaborative 13- Mr. Adame is a Peer Support Specialist in Grants and a father of ten children. He began his own recovery approximately 17 years ago using the services available to him and decided to give back to others. Mr. Adame began a local Alcoholics Anonymous group in 2002. He also ran consumer programs such as Wellness & Recovery Action Plan, Double Trouble in Recovery and a Pain Management Group. He is currently the Lead Coordinator for a Psychosocial Rehabilitation Program.
- **Local Collaborative 14** – Honorable Mention
- **Crownpoint Teen Court** – Local Collaborative 15- The Crownpoint Teen Court is the only Navajo Nation community-run, Native American youth court program that for the past nine years has incorporated culture based substance abuse and crime prevention programming for Native American youth in Eastern Navajo Nation. The Navajo Nation Supreme Court endorsed this program as one of their model programs to partner with their Peacemaking courts.
- **Jane Jackson Bear** – Local Collaborative 16- Ms. Jackson Bear is one of the founders of local collaborative 16 and stands up for the rights of youth, supports her co-workers, and works endless hours to make sure the needs of consumers are met. Ms. Jackson Bear organized a youth Pow-Wow for Santa Ana in April, 2010, fell ill, but still ran the event from bed.
- **Marion Goodluck** – Local Collaborative 17- Ms. Goodluck is a member of the Dine Nation and celebrated her 24th year of sobriety this year. She is a well known advocate in her community, esteemed artist, and a reliable volunteer. Ms. Goodluck has presented issues of discrimination and inequality of Native people to the Albuquerque City Council and the NM State Legislature.
- **Patricia Vigil** – Local Collaborative 18- Ms. Vigil is a peer counselor and helped organize the local collaborative in its early stages. She is a member of the Ohkay Owingeh and Southern Ute Tribes and is dedicated to the behavioral health needs of Native Americans in the Eight Northern Pueblos. She was instrumental in organizing the 2010 Native American Behavioral Summit in September, 2010.

State Representative Edward Sandoval sponsored this year’s House Joint Memorial (HJM 37) and Senator Mary Kay Papan sponsored this year’s Senate Joint Memorial (SJM 22) designating February 17, 2011 as *Behavioral Health Day* at the Legislature.

The Memorial serves to honor the many individuals who devote themselves to public policy making on behalf of the thousands of voiceless New Mexicans who suffer from behavioral health disorders.

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 the Governor’s office.

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