New Mexico Interagency Behavioral Health Purchasing Collaborative

Collaboration for Recovery, Resiliency and Empowerment



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Public Education Department For Immediate Release January 18, 2010 Contact: Betina Gonzales McCracken (505) 476-6205

Governor Bill Richardson Directs Behavioral Health Collaborative to Issue Request for Proposals for More Efficient, Effective and Quality Driven Services

Budget Issues and Medicaid Redesign Reasons for Needed Changes

Santa Fe, New Mexico – Governor Bill Richardson has directed the Behavioral Health Collaborative to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) as soon as possible in anticipation of the need for future changes in the administration and delivery of mental health and substance abuse services.

"The State faces difficult budgetary times and, in light of these challenges, the way in which the services that the Behavioral Health Collaborative provides to New Mexican's are paid for and delivered needs to be evaluated," said the Governor. "The focus should be on the most efficient and effective manner of administering and delivering these services, while maintaining the highest level of quality."

The direction from the Governor took into consideration proposed changes in the Medicaid program and the Human Services Department's efforts to redesign the program to align with upcoming national health care reform. It is critical that New Mexico's behavioral health system be a partner with these changes.

"I am hopeful that this process will result in the best possible outcome for the State and the New Mexican's who depend on these important services," the Governor added.

The Collaborative hopes to have an RFP out by the Spring 2010.

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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