



NEW MEXICO HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT
P.O. Box 2348
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-2348

Susana Martinez
Governor

Sidonie Squier
Secretary-Designate

Media contact: Betina Gonzales McCracken (505) 476-6205

January 10, 2010
News Advisory

NM Center for Recovery and Wellness Now Open at the Henry Perea Building in Los Lunas

Center Dedicated to Helping People Recover from Addictions

Santa Fe – The New Mexico Human Services Department and Partners in Wellness, with guests from the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), have officially opened the New Mexico Center for Recovery and Wellness at the Henry Perea Building in Los Lunas.

“After years of public input, planning and appropriation approval, the NM Center for Recovery and Wellness will now begin serving the people of New Mexico whose lives are being destroyed by substance abuse,” said Michael Sanchez, State Senator representing the Valencia County area. “It is important to recognize that alcohol and substance abuse issues are not confined to urban areas, and Valencia County is pleased to be home to this Center.” Senator Sanchez was instrumental in getting funding approval for the facility and was actively involved in the community forums that were held to gather public input in the planning process.

The NM Center for Recovery and Wellness will focus on Intensive Outpatient Treatment to help people who are addicted move to treatment and eventually recovery. “The NM Center for Recovery and Wellness is designed to work collaboratively with law enforcement, the judicial system, probation and parole, Isleta Pueblo and all community agencies to have the greatest possible impact on the communities surrounding Los Lunas,” said Linda Roebuck Homer, HSD Behavioral Health Services Division Director and CEO of the NM Behavioral Health Collaborative.

Partners in Wellness (PIW), a non-profit organization was selected to manage and operate the center for the State, and has already been providing community based outpatient treatment and linkage services in Valencia County through the Human Services’ Income Support Division office in Los Lunas since 2009.

Few New Mexicans can say that there is no member in their family whose life has not been devastated by alcohol or substance abuse. Alcohol abuse costs New Mexico \$2.5 billion dollars a year in health care costs, loss of earnings and productivity, crimes, accidents and other social costs. New Mexico has the highest rate of alcohol related death rate and drug-induced death rate in the nation. National and state outcome statistics demonstrate that treatment works and people do recover from addictions.

The grand opening of this unique Center and those statistics brought in the Administrator of the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, as well as the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy.

(more)

“When I served as NM Human Services Department Cabinet Secretary I fought very hard for this facility, and to see it finished and ready to serve New Mexicans is more than a joy, it is a dream come true and will serve the people of New Mexico well,” said Pamela Hyde, SAMHSA Administrator.

“The New Mexico Center for Recovery and Wellness is a shining example of how Federal, state, and local officials can work together to save lives and restore hope to citizens who are suffering from the disease of drug addiction.” said Deputy Director Benjamin B. Tucker, Deputy Director of State, Local and Tribal Affairs for the White House Office of national Drug control Policy. “Drug treatment works, and as a result there are millions of Americans are successfully in recovery for drug addiction today.”

Individuals interested in learning more about the Center for Wellness and Recovery are encouraged to contact Partners in Wellness at (505) 866-2300.

Funding for the Center comes from the State General Fund and Severance Tax bonds appropriated by the Legislature and approved by the Governor during Fiscal Year’s 2008, 2009 and 2010. The total appropriated to date to plan, design, furnish, construct and operate the Center is \$11.55 million. Services provided will be paid with Medicaid and existing General Fund substance abuse treatment dollars.

The building housing the NM Center on Wellness and Recovery is named after long-time Los Lunas Village councilman and retired educator, Henry Perea. Mr. Perea, who recently passed, was dedicated to improving the Los Lunas community through initiatives that created new jobs, improved public service and transportation and recreation.

###