

For Immediate Release
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State Awarded Grant Money to Improve High School Outcomes

SANTA FE, N.M. – New Mexico’s high school students will have an opportunity to explore future career options in mental health and substance abuse, Human Services Department Secretary Brent Earnest announced today.

New Mexico’s Behavioral Health Services Division partnered with the University of New Mexico’s Community Behavioral Health Division to host the National Association for Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors (NAADAC) Workforce Forums.

“The national need for mental and behavioral health workers is growing. Events like Workforce Forums provide New Mexico’s high school students the chance to learn more about the field and become inspired to pursue education in areas that will help others,” Secretary Earnest said.

The forum is open to high school students across New Mexico and will educate students on workforce needs, certification and licensing requirements, national opportunities and professional development.

“There is a tremendous shortage of practitioners in all of the behavioral disciplines, psychiatry, child psychiatry, psychiatric nursing, psychology, social work, counseling, prevention, and peer support. When it comes to Hispanic and Native American representation in each of these disciplines, the need is even greater. It is critical therefore, that young New Mexicans join these career fields in increasing numbers so that we can further the healing and well-being of our people,” said Wayne Lindstrom, director of Behavioral Health Services.

The Workforce Forums will be held on April 14 at the Domenici Education Center on the campus of the University of New Mexico. The event begins at 1 p.m. More information can be found at www.naadac.org/new-mexico-workforce-forum.

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