

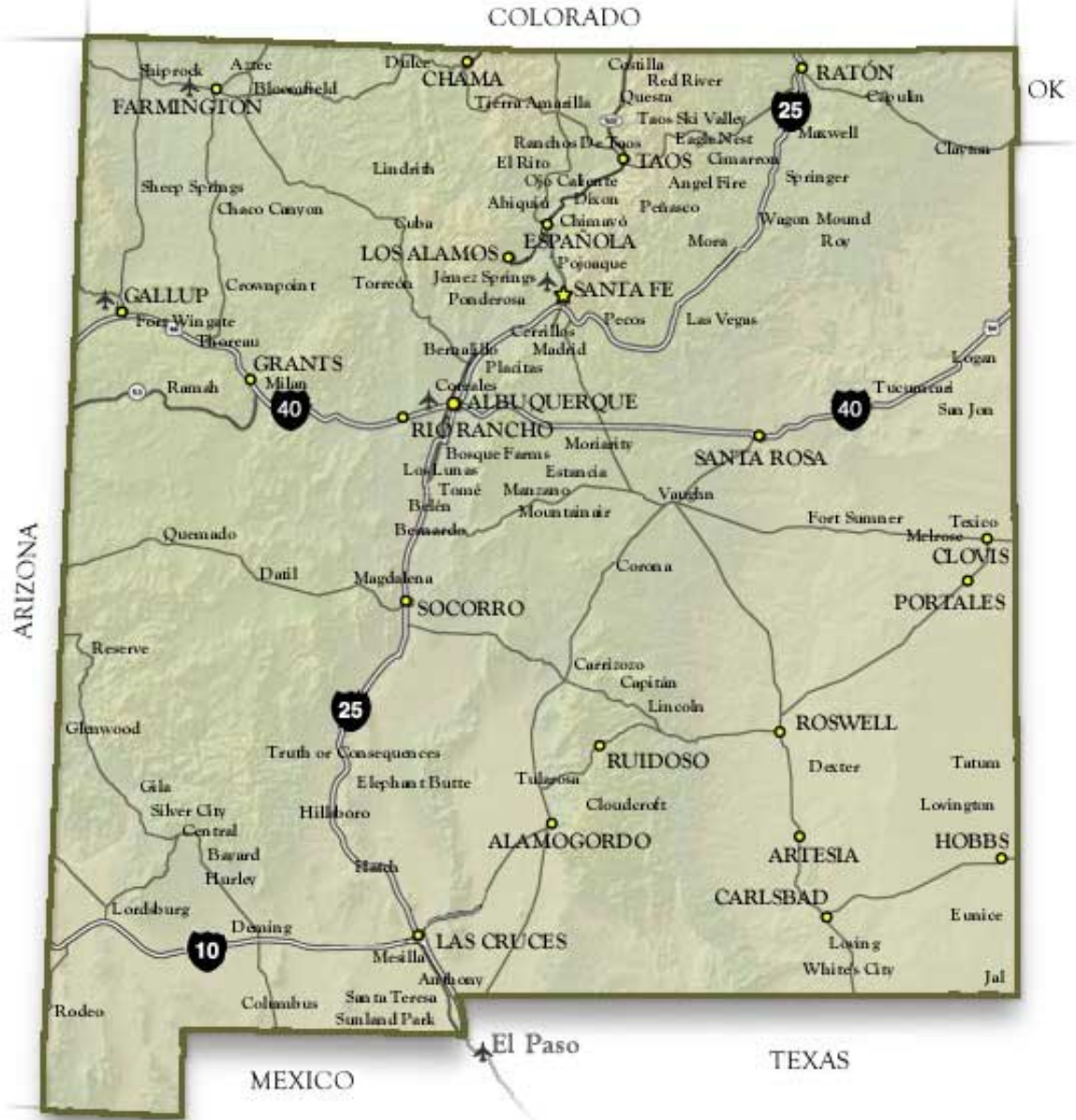


States as Change Agents

Sally Kroner, M.D.

Psychiatric Consultant for Medicaid

New Mexico Human Services Department





New Mexico . . .

- Mostly a rural and frontier state with 1.8 million people
- Fifth largest state; sixth lowest density
- Third largest proportion of American Indians
- Largest proportion of Hispanics
- Largest number of households without phones
- 1 in 3 families speak Spanish at home
- Basic behavioral health services are lacking in many smaller communities



The Behavioral Health Purchasing Collaborative

- Human Services
- Health
- Children, Youth & Families
- Corrections
- Aging & Long Term Services
- Public Education
- Transportation
- Labor
- Indian Affairs
- Finance & Administration
- Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
- Admin. Office of the Courts
- Mortgage Finance Authority
- Health Policy Commission
- Developmental Disabilities Planning Council
- Governor's Commission on Disability
- Governor's Health Policy Advisor



The Behavioral Health Purchasing Collaborative

- On July 1, 2005 ValueOptions (VO) began managing:
 - Medicaid behavioral health (including pharmacy)
 - Mental Health and Substance Abuse Block Grants
 - State General Fund for children and non-Medicaid adults
 - Community Corrections



Physical Health/Behavioral Health Integration

- Previous model had full integration for Medicaid members, but providers had to contract with multiple entities
- Under the current model behavioral health providers contract only with VO, but barriers for full integration have been created
- Both physical health and behavioral health providers are able to treat behavioral health conditions



Physical Health/Behavioral Health Integration

- VO and the MCO's struggled initially with communication
- VO and the MCO's created a common process for referrals
- VO and the MCO's meet monthly to discuss difficult cases, but there are still "turf wars."



Physical Health/Behavioral Health Integration

- It's hard to integrate when there is no one to integrate with
- VO saw early on that rates for psychiatrists needed to be increased
- The State allowed the rate increase for managed care Medicaid and other agencies and then followed with FFS rates
- We have seen a gradual increase in psychiatrists in rural areas in the last 2 years



Physical Health/Behavioral Health Integration

- Non-Medicaid integration is difficult and provider dependent
- Two pilot projects are underway that are funded by VO and using evidence based practices
- We hope to develop State-wide policies regarding referrals between physical health and behavioral health providers



Substance Abuse/Mental Health Integration

- Medicaid benefit is very limited—12 hours of outpatient therapy for alcohol abuse for those 21 and older.
- Mental health and substance abuse service systems are separate with different provider requirements, philosophies, etc.
- Prior to 7/1/2005 there were some initiatives to require “screening” in both systems



Substance Abuse/Mental Health Integration

- The Collaborative is currently evaluating this area with the goal of minimizing silos and maximizing funding and consumers served
- What makes sense to include in the Medicaid State Plan?
- How will changes in Medicaid effect other funding streams?



Substance Abuse/Mental Health Integration

- The long term goal is to integrate mental health and substance abuse treatment at the provider level
- The Core Service Agency will provide both mental health and substance abuse evaluation and treatment
- A common assessment process will require full mental health and substance abuse evaluation (not just “screening”)



Cross Agency Changes

- Many processes are now uniform across most agencies and are modeled on Medicaid (complaints and grievances, appeals, etc.)
- Rate equalization is underway
- Common Service Definitions have been implemented
- Consumers and advocates are increasingly involved in high level decision making



Legislative Strategies

- Success was achieved this year in many areas by speaking with a single voice
- Local Collaboratives developed legislative priorities which were incorporated into the Purchasing Collaboratives legislative agenda
- As a result, more favorable legislation was passed this year than last