



Department of Behavioral Health Services

October 2020

COVID-19 Response

for Behavioral Health Services



Welcome to the quarterly newsletter for the Bernalillo County Department of Behavioral Health Services. As the County Manager, it has been a busy few months with the global pandemic, and Bernalillo County is working hard to ensure you and your families are safe.

The Department of Behavioral Health Services has been on the front-lines ensuring our community has access to substance use and mental health services. The department recently received a national 3-year accreditation from CARF, which recognizes excellence in the standards of care. Not only does this accreditation give credit to our staff for their hard work, but it shows the citizens of Bernalillo County that they are safe and will receive the best care possible at our facility.

The Federal Government authorized CARES grant monies to local governments, during the pandemic, and I am proud to report that \$1 million was allocated specifically for behavioral health providers. This infusion of money into the community ensures that small businesses and private practices are able to keep their doors open, and continue to help community members with substance use treatment and mental health disorders.

Our community providers under the Behavioral Health Initiative have been also proactively changing the way they see and meet clients. Telehealth and virtual visits have become a new normal for many of the providers, and there has not been any major disruption in services.

The department also achieved working with Albuquerque Public Schools to ensure that families who were at risk of becoming homeless were received assistance. Through the McKinney-Vento Program, the county funded rooms and support services to these families.

We will continue to do our very best to serve the great people in our community. Wishing you safety and health.

Sincerely,
Julie Morgas Baca
County Manager

Department News & Updates

CARE Campus Licensed for Crisis Triage Services

The Bernalillo County Department of Behavioral Health Services receives a permanent crisis triage center (CTC) license from the New Mexico Department of Health. The county is the second recipient of this CTC licensure in the State of New Mexico, and the only active license within the county.

The Crisis Triage Center is located at the CARE Campus at 5901 Zuni Rd SE, formerly known as MATS. This license will allow the county to provide crisis stabilization services. These services help close the gap between the needs of patients with out-patient and acute care needs. These new services are designed as a step-up or step-down in care, as it helps clients before a crisis occurs, to avoid inpatient hospitalization.

The CARE Campus is currently accepting patients referred by UNMH, and other behavioral health service providers. The further expansion of

services will include opening an outpatient behavioral health clinic.



The CARE campus is located at 5901 Zuni Rd in South East Albuquerque. The Campus is open 24/7. To view admission criteria and learn about all of the services provided, please visit www.bernco.gov/dbhs

CARE Campus Receives a Three-Year Accreditation

The Commission of Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) has awarded Bernalillo County Department of Behavioral Health Services a three year accreditation for the following direct care programs, at the CARE campus: Crisis Stabilization Unit, Detoxification Program, Supportive After Care Program.

This is the first accreditation that the international accrediting body, CARF, has given to Bernalillo County. The County has been offering mental health and substance use services for the past 15 years. These programs have made a major impact in the community, and are nationally accredited and recognized.



Community Engagement

Needle Pickup & Outreach Continues

Bernalillo County Department of Behavioral Health Services has resumed Community Needle Pickup once a month under COVID-19 safety precautions. A total of 20 staff members and volunteers participated in the events and conducted outreach at the following locations:

- *Jerry Cline Park on June 19, 2020* in which 73 used syringes were found;
- *Coors & Central SW on July 17, 2020* in which 80 used syringes were found;
- *La Mesa Community Center and Park on August 14, 2020* in which 94 used syringes were found;
- *Wilson Park on September 11, 2020* in which 58 syringes were found.

Most of the used syringes were found where unsheltered people have slept and around

encampment areas of those who suffer from substance use disorders. At each outreach event, a short training on safe disposal methods, how to recognize where public injection occurs, and safety issues are reviewed with participants who volunteer to assist with needle pickup. Naloxone kits are also available during outreach and information on available syringe exchange services are provided to community members.

More information: www.bemco.gov/dbhs or email mclark@bemco.gov.



Virtual Town Hall

The Department of Behavioral Health Services hosted its first town hall, virtually. This inaugural town hall is the start to a quarterly town hall in each Commissioner's district. The constituents of each district are encouraged to submit questions ahead of time to help shape the dialogue for each commission district.

Thank you Commissioner Vice-Chair Charlene Pyskoty for hosting the first town hall, in District 5!

Save The Date!

Commissioner Collie presents District 3 Town Hall on November 18, 2020 at noon.



Community Board

Subcommittee Meetings

- The Behavioral Health Initiative subcommittees meet quarterly, and the steering committee meets monthly.
- You can view our subcommittee calendar and meetings online at www.bernco.gov/dbhs

Volunteer with Us: Needle Pick up

- November 13 at 2 pm
 - Tower Park
- December 11 at 2 pm
 - Atrisco Park

Needle pickup locations & face masks distribution dates available at www.bernco.gov/dbhs

Upcoming Trainings

- Motivational Interviewing
- Spanish Motivational Interviewing
- Engaging Others in Treatment
- Vicarious Trauma
- Community Resilience and Healing Anti-Stigma
- TBI Training
- Family Support Group
- Connection Peer Support
- Peer to Peer Ongoing Class

To register for upcoming trainings, please visit www.bernco.gov/dbhs for a link to the providers registration page.

Social Media



@BerncoBHI

Contact Us

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Our Partners

