



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
April 13, 2016

www.bernco.gov

Contact: Tia Bland
tbland@bernco.gov
O. 505.468.7026
C. 505.225.6212

County Commission Approves Administrative Structure to Vet Behavioral Health Projects

Bernalillo County – The County Commission last night approved a resolution that makes the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Government Commission (ABCGC) the group that will vet behavioral health projects and programs.

The Albuquerque Bernalillo County Government Commission is comprised of four Albuquerque city councilors and four Bernalillo County commissioners and a representative from the Mayor's Office.

The joint city-county commission was established to address matters that impact both the City of Albuquerque and Bernalillo County.

The Albuquerque Bernalillo County Government Commission is currently focusing on the behavioral health initiative and will become the venue where proposed behavioral health projects are initially discussed and vetted.

Final approval for implementing behavioral health programs and services will go before the respective policymaking bodies – the Albuquerque City Council and the Bernalillo County Board of Commissioners.

“We’re in the early stages of collaboration between the city and the county,” says Commission Chair Art De La Cruz, who is also a member of the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Government Commission. **“This structure sets up a framework for service delivery.”**

An estimated \$17 million a year will be collected through gross receipt taxes to create a regional behavioral health care system.

The Albuquerque Bernalillo County Government Commission will soon be presented with recommendations on behavioral health services that could be established in four areas: Crisis Services, Community Supports, Housing, and Prevention, Intervention and Harm Reduction.

Four committees, that will include community representatives, will come up with the recommendations to present to the ABCGC for review and evaluation.

Resumes are currently being accepted for participation on the four committees. Friday, April 15 at 5 p.m. is the deadline for interested individuals to submit a resume and letter to Bernalillo County Director of Substance Abuse Programs Katrina Hotrum, khotrum@bernco.gov

For more information about serving on a committee and for general behavioral health information, visit Bernalillo County's website: www.bernco.gov/BC-behavioral-health.

###

About Bernalillo County

Bernalillo County is 1,160 square miles and is New Mexico's most populous county with more than 674,000 residents. Bernalillo County government provides a wide range of public services to residents who live in Albuquerque, Los Ranchos and Tijeras and the 111,000 residents who live outside the village and city limits in the unincorporated areas of the county. Bernalillo County employs approximately 2,500 people and has an annual operating budget and capital investments of more than \$500 million. Elected officials include five county commissioners, assessor, clerk, probate judge, sheriff and treasurer.