

Community Dialogues on Mental Health – Greater Albuquerque Region



ACTION TEAM # 4

RECOMMENDED ACTION REPORT

DRAFT: April 27, 2015

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Recommended Action #4	Assess existing City resources focused on behavioral health prevention; the effectiveness of existing programs (suicide prevention, gang prevention, substance abuse, etc.); and opportunities for expanded community collaborations.
RECOMMENDED SOLUTION	<p>Our team interpreted our task as three-fold: (1) To determine where city resources should be invested to have the greatest impact; (2) To determine how effective programs currently funded by the City are; (3) To identify opportunities for expanded community collaborations.</p> <p>Recommendation: <i>The Mayor, in collaboration with County leaders, convene all stakeholders to identify a clear vision for establishing an “ideal” system of care built upon the following guidelines:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Effective services: both client focused and recovery based 2. Continuity of access and care across private and public socioeconomic levels 3. Visibility and understanding via education: a commitment to de-stigmatize 4. Linkage from prevention/early intervention through treatment 5. Case management and follow up 6. Strong referral process and collaboration among providers 7. Strong peer and self-advocacy (Empowerment model) 8. Align the type and intensity of behavioral health services with real, in-time community need 9. System that addresses co-occurring disorders 10. Coordination across sectors (drug courts, mental health courts, housing, APD, etc.) and continual refinement to community needs <p><i>We recommend that the City require more rigorous evaluation criteria from behavioral health contract bidders to include outcomes vs. outputs.</i> The goal is to <i>establish more meaningful outcomes guidelines</i> to achieve demonstrable impact, increased accountability and greater effectiveness in the programs the City funds.</p> <p>To leverage awarded funds, <i>we recommend that the City require demonstrable collaborations and letters of commitment/MOUs from bidders in order to receive behavioral health contracts.</i> Funding should be contingent upon service providers’ ability to create a strong collaborative network of support for consumers.</p>
STATUS	United Way recently prioritized behavioral health as a Community Impact Project. The project will include strategies to address system-wide change, including identifying a clear vision.
COSTS	For FY15, the City funds \$9.9 million for behavioral health related services. Our recommendations are intended to ensure that City funds are invested in the most effective programs moving forward and distributed across prevention, intervention and treatment services in a manner that aligns with evidence-based best practices and a robust systems of care which could include aligning with other funders, such as Bernalillo Co., United Way, etc.
IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE	<p>Immediate: Convene community behavioral health decision-makers to develop an action plan to implement the recommendation of Action Team #4. Participants will agree to ownership of an appropriate piece of the implementation plan, and take the individualized steps necessary to make the recommendation a community reality.</p> <p>Remainder of FY15: Participate in development of a strategic plan to transition to the defined ideal Greater Albuquerque Behavioral Health System.</p>

**OTHER
CONSIDERATIONS**

- Recent passage of a County tax increase of \$21 million for behavioral health services.
- The City is currently collaborating with the County on a release and transition program for individuals with mental illness incarcerated in MDC.
- Regarding convening all stakeholders, representation from the following institutions and agencies is recommended:
 - City of Albuquerque
 - Bernalillo County
 - Sandoval County
 - Valencia County
 - State of New Mexico
 - Chambers of Commerce (Albuquerque, Rio Rancho, Hispanic, etc.)
 - University of New Mexico, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences
 - University of New Mexico School of Nursing
 - MCOs
 - Hospital Associations
 - Presbyterian Hospital
 - Lovelace Hospital
 - HIS
 - VA
 - Albuquerque Public Schools
 - Large providers
 - Consumers
 - NAMI
 - Advocacy organizations
 - Law enforcement: APD
 - First responders: AFD
 - Other essential stakeholders