



Department of Behavioral Health Services

June 2020

National Achievement Award for Behavioral Health Services

The Bernalillo County Department of Behavioral Health Services (DBHS) is excited to announce, five of their programs are being national recognized by the National Association of Counties.



Parks & Recreation & Best in Category

Supportive Aftercare Program: Community Reintegration

This program focuses on how the county's Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department and the Supportive Aftercare Program (SAC), are collaborating to teach individuals how to access various community resources and use them as an asset to their overall wellbeing, while living as part of a unique sober community.

Criminal Justice & Public Safety

Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) Program

Bernalillo County's Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) program is a public safety program in which police officers exercise discretionary authority to divert individuals suspected of low level, non-violent crime driven by unmet behavioral health needs to community-based health services instead of arrest, jail and prosecution.

Health

Narcan / Narloxone Harm Reduction Program

The department has expanded its outreach efforts to improve the physical and behavioral health of high risk individuals through opioid overdose education and naloxone distribution

Information Technology

Needle Mapping

The Bernalillo County Department of Behavioral Health Services created the master plan to design an app that would track the migration density of needles in the county.

Children & Youth

Youth Transitional Living

Bernalillo County's youth transitional living services ensure that transition age youth who are precariously housed or homeless and have a behavioral health condition or addiction diagnosis remain engaged in community services and housed.

Department News & Updates

CARES Campus Welcomes New UNM Medical Director



The Department of Behavioral Health is proud to work with the University of New Mexico Hospitals to deliver services to the clients of Bernalillo County.

The department recently announced its new medical director, **Yolanda M. Morales,**

PhD, MBA, PMHCNS-BC LPCC.

Dr. Morales comes to the department with over 20 years of experience. Dr. Morales began her career in psychiatric services and has worked in a variety of areas. She has experience in psychiatric emergency services and outpatient services.

The University of New Mexico College of Nursing awarded her as a nominee for Nursing

Preceptor. Dr. Morales has also received numerous awards from local and national organizations, including the National Coalition of Ethnic and Minority Nursing.

Her work includes publications relating to mental health disparities among Latinos. Dr. Morales hails from Silver City, New Mexico and is bilingual in Spanish.

Role with Bernalillo County

As the medical director, she provides oversight and collaboration with the DBHS Director to improve patient outcomes and establish policies and guidelines, while planning for future expansion.

"We are trusted with the care of these patients who are medically and psychiatrically frail, and we ensure we provide them with the best possible treatment for recovery from the disease of addiction. A safe and stigma free environment are crucial towards their road to recovery," says Dr. Yolanda Morales.

Mental Health Awareness Proclamations

Bernalillo County joined more than 1,100 communities across the county in celebrating National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day, and May Mental Health Awareness Month. Bernalillo County is supporting individuals across the full continuum of services including prevention, identification, early intervention, support and treatment, harm reduction, and outreach.

Over the last year, the Bernalillo County Department of Behavioral Health Services providers delivered behavioral health services to over **14,000** youth, through its reduction of adverse childhood experience and youth transitional living programs.



COVID-19 Response

Fighting for Families Newly Unhoused as a Result of the COVID-19 Pandemic



Bernalillo County and Albuquerque Public Schools (APS) Title I McKinney-Vento Program are collaboratively working with the community to support families in need and provide transitional housing in the form of a motel voucher. The vouchers are available to families who have recently become unhoused due to the current coronavirus (COVID-19) public health emergency.

The collaboration will ensure that families have a safe place to stay while they work with APS established social workers to establish housing stability.

The pilot program will assist APS families with children who are newly unhoused, precariously housed, or temporarily displaced due to COVID-19. The program participants are referred by their school, who has an established working relationship with the family. Upon receipt of the referral, the Department of Behavioral Health Services will begin review, and the placement process will begin.

The families will receive a variety of services once they enter the program. The school-based social workers will continue to provide case management support to ensure families maintain and sustain housing, while students engage in educational opportunities provided by APS. This support includes assistance in seeking long-term housing, educational support, and case management services for the entire family.

Honored as a Stepping Up Innovator County

Bernalillo County has been recognized by the National Association of Counties as an innovator in the 'Stepping Up Initiative' designed to reduce the number of people incarcerated who have mental illness. Nationally, a disproportionate number of people have mental illnesses in jails. This in and of itself is a public health crisis.

In response to this crisis, Bernalillo County worked with the National Association of Counties joining their Stepping Up Initiative, which has helped mobilize hundreds of counties across the country to reduce the prevalence of people in jail who have mental illnesses.

As an Innovator County, Bernalillo County's Department of Behavioral Health Services will be called upon to share its knowledge with other counties seeking to become Innovator Counties.



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

- July 19 at 9:30 am (SW)
- August 14 at 9:30 am
- August 28 at 9:30 am
- September 11 at 9:30 am

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



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Our Partners

