

# Administrative Office of the Courts

Supreme Court of New Mexico

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September 2, 2025

Senator George Munoz  
Senator Linda Lopez  
Senator Joseph Cervantes

Director Charles Sallee  
New Mexico State Capitol  
490 Old Santa Fe Trail  
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Representative Nathan Small  
Representative Liz Thomson  
Representative Christine Chandler

Secretary Kari Armijo  
New Mexico Health Care Authority  
P.O. Box 2348  
Santa Fe, NM 87504-2348

*via email*

## **Re: September 1, 2025 Monthly Update on Administrative Office of the Courts Activities Related to Senate Bill 3 – Behavioral Health Reform and Investment Act (BHRIA)**

Dear Senators, Representatives, Director Sallee, and Secretary Armijo,

As the Behavioral Health Integration and Reform Administrator at the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), I'm excited to share some recent progress on the Behavioral Health Reform and Investment Act (BHRIA). Over the past month, we've been working closely with communities and partners to shape a behavioral health system that reflects local needs and strengthens support across New Mexico.

### **1. Released Behavioral Health Regional Plan Funding Opportunity and Legislative Call-to-Action**

- AOC released a funding opportunity for each behavioral health region on August 18th.
- [The funding announcement and application](#) is designed to promote organization at the regional level between counties and tribes. Each entity must bring regional stakeholders together through a planning committee, complete the E-SIM, set funding priorities, and submit a regional plan — ensuring their region is positioned to receive funding.
- \$45,000 allocated to each behavioral health region
- AOC will be providing technical assistance to each region in the areas of:

- Tribal engagement strategies
- Behavioral health service expertise
- Fiscal and financial expertise
- Meeting facilitation services for E-SIM and Priority Identification
- Simple application, due September 30

## **2. Key Presentations & Conferences**

- State Bar Association Annual Meeting with Supreme Court Justice Zamora.
- August Executive Committee meeting, including an overview of the Enhanced Sequential Intercept Mapping (E-SIM) process and the new funding announcement for behavioral health regions.
- Commission on Mental Health and Competency quarterly meeting.
- National Latino Behavioral Health Conference.

## **3. Regional & Community Engagement**

- Met with the 4th Judicial District, Socorro Project Aware, Santa Fe County, and Adult Protective Services to explore strategies for engaging applicable populations in local behavioral health regional planning efforts.
- Convened and hosted by Representative Herrera, met with the 1<sup>st</sup> behavioral health region representatives, including Santa Clara Pueblo, Los Alamos County, Santa Fe County and Española's behavioral health leaders to discuss SB3 implementation and the funding announcement.
- August 29, 2025 - hosted the first informational session to review the behavioral health funding announcement with community partners- hosting second informational session on September 2, 2025.

## **4. Agency & Government Collaboration**

- Met with the Corrections Department and incorporated Wendy Price, NMCD Behavioral Health Bureau Chief into the weekly meeting with the Health Care Authority (HCA) and UNM Health Sciences Center (UNMHSC).
- Met with the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) leadership to provide a progress update on SB3 implementation.
- Engaged with the Department of Health (DOH) to discuss health council involvement and began planning a joint training and engagement session with health councils and local collaboratives which is scheduled for September 8, 2025.
- Joined Bernalillo County's meeting with Isleta Pueblo and discussed SB3 on August 29, 2025.

## **5. System Development & Capacity Building**

- UNMHSC held its first meeting with E-SIM facilitators to begin coordination and facilitation planning for regional implementation.
- UNMHSC will host a second training with facilitators on September 12, 2025.

## 6. Completed Next Steps from August 2025 Report

- ✓ Released Behavioral Health Regional Planning Grants application
- ✓ Finalized and distributed the E-SIM Model
- ✓ Continue Tribal and Community Engagement
- ✓ Integrate with Health Councils and Local Behavioral Health Collaboratives
- ☐ Schedule Mapping Workshops- *[pending finalized MOUs with each Behavioral Health accountable lead]*

## Next Steps

- **Coordinate Joint Training:** Finalize agenda and schedule the statewide training with DOH, health councils, and local collaboratives.
- **Meet with Indian Affairs Department** to include more robust tribal engagement strategies.
- **Support Funding Applications:** Provide technical assistance for regions preparing to apply for funding under SB3.
- **Strengthen Agency Partnerships:** Maintain regular meetings with HCA, UNMHSC, and Corrections partners to ensure alignment across state systems.

## Recommendations

- Feedback AOC received continues to express concerns that more populous regions will complete their plan ahead of other regions and access funding sooner, creating disparities in the distribution.
  - AOC recommends the HCA develop a draft funding structure as soon as possible

Please visit our [BHRIA website](#) where interested parties can access agendas, meeting materials, completed SIM mapping, AOC's monthly reports, join our mailing list, and easily submit feedback/questions.

Sincerely,



Esperanza Lucero  
Behavioral Health Integration and Reform Administrator  
Administrative Office of the Courts