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*Commissioner, District 3*



**Adam Fulton Johnson**  
*Commissioner, District 4*

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**Gregory S. Shaffer**  
*County Manager*

October 17, 2025

**BY EMAIL**

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Dear Honorable Pueblo Governors, Jicarilla Apache Nation President, City Managers, Town and Village Managers:

First Behavioral Health Region Tribal and Local Government Leaders

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This follows up on previous correspondence and meetings concerning the regional planning necessary to implement the Behavioral Health Regional Infrastructure Act (BHRIA), Laws 2025, Chapter 3 (so-called SB 3).

As explained in greater detail below:

- Santa Fe County is able and willing to serve as the initial Accountable Entity for our Behavioral Health Region for purposes of applying for planning grant funds and coordinating the development of a regional plan; and
- We are respectfully requesting that tribal and local governments within our Behavioral Health Region either volunteer to serve as the Accountable Entity or provide a letter of support for Santa Fe County doing so by Thursday, October 23, 2025. (To date, we have received letters of support for Santa Fe County to act as the Accountable Entity from Los Alamos County, Rio Arriba County, and the Pueblo of Pojoaque.)

By way of summary background information:

- On September 11, 2025, the Counties of Los Alamos, Rio Arriba, and Santa Fe sent a joint letter to the tribal and local governments within the First Behavioral Health Region:
  - Highlighting the need to identify an Accountable Entity and apply for grant funds by September 30, 2025; and
  - Expressing the desire for all tribal and local government stakeholders to be involved from the outset in the planning effort required by SB 3, including the selection of an Accountable Entity.
- Stakeholder meetings were held on September 17, September 22, and September 24, 2025, to discuss SB 3 and the roles and responsibilities of the Accountable Entity. At those meetings:
  - It was clarified that the initial Accountable Entity for regional planning purposes would not necessarily play a similar role for other purposes, such as implementation of regional plans.
  - Santa Fe County expressed its willingness to serve as the initial Accountable Entity or to support another entity who was able and willing to do so.
  - No other tribal or local government stakeholder volunteered to serve as the initial Accountable Entity.
  - Some stakeholders requested more time to analyze the issue and more information from the State Behavioral Health Executive Committee and Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC).
- The State Behavioral Health Executive Committee and AOC listened to that feedback and did the following:

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- Extended the deadline for our Behavioral Health Region to identify an Accountable Entity and apply for regional planning grant funds until October 30, 2025;
- Developed and distributed a fact sheet concerning SB 3, behavioral health plans, and Accountability Entities; and
- Offered to meet with tribal governments within our Behavioral Health Region to consult and receive feedback.

We are now approaching the October 30, 2025, deadline for our Behavioral Health Region to identify an Accountable Entity, apply for grant funds from AOC, and schedule the Enhanced Sequential Intercept Mapping (E-SIM) for our Behavioral Health Region, a necessary first step in the development of a regional plan.

In the same spirit of collaboration and transparency with which we have approached this matter to date, I am sending this additional follow-up letter to see if any other tribal or local government is able and willing to serve as Accountable Entity. If not, we would respectfully request that those who have not already done so support Santa Fe County's grant application to serve as the Accountable Entity for our Behavioral Health Region through a letter of support (a template for which is enclosed).

Either way, we would request your feedback by October 23, 2025, so that additional collaboration (if necessary) can occur to identify a consensus Accountable Entity or so that Santa Fe County can timely submit its application to the AOC for grant funding.

Please send letters of support to Anne Ryan, Santa Fe County's Community Services Department Director, at [asryan@santafecountynm.gov](mailto:asryan@santafecountynm.gov). Please also inform Anne of your government's principal point of contact for regional planning efforts, to include contact information.

In closing, I would reiterate that Santa Fe County looks forward to working with all stakeholders, in whatever capacity, on this significant opportunity to address the behavioral health crisis facing all of our communities.

Sincerely,



Gregory S. Shaffer

Santa Fe County Manager

Encl.: Sample Letter of Support

cc (by email):

Anne Laurent, Los Alamos County Manager ([anne.laurent@losalamosnm.gov](mailto:anne.laurent@losalamosnm.gov))

Jeremy G. Maestas, Rio Arriba County Manager ([jgmaestas@rio-arriba.org](mailto:jgmaestas@rio-arriba.org))

Anne Ryan, Santa Fe County Community Services Division Director

Hvtce Miller, Santa Fe County Intergovernmental Outreach Coordinator

**SAMPLE LETTER OF SUPPORT**

[Tribal or Local Government Letterhead]

[Date]

**To:** Esperanza Lucero, Administrative Office of the Courts

**Re:** Letter of Support for Regional Accountable Entity, Behavioral Health Investment and Reform Act (BHRIA)

Dear Administrative Office of the Courts,

As \_\_\_\_\_ of [Tribal or Local Government], I am pleased to express support for [Name of Organization/Individual] to serve as the **Accountable Entity** for our behavioral health region under BHRIA.

We believe [Lead's Name] is well-positioned to:

- Coordinate regional planning efforts in collaboration with counties, tribes, and local governments.
- Facilitate SIM/E-SIM mapping and identify service gaps.
- Engage stakeholders across health, justice, and community sectors.
- Support the development of a strong, community-driven behavioral health plan.

For these reasons, [County/Tribal Name] endorses [Lead's Name] as the regional Accountable Entity and looks forward to partnering in the implementation of BHRIA.

Sincerely,  
[Your Name]  
Title,