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September 30, 2025

Esperanza Lucero, MSW, MBA  
Behavioral Health Integration and Reform Administrator  
Administrative Office of the Courts  
202 East Marcy Street  
Santa Fe, NM 87501

**Re: Letter of Support for Regional Accountable Entity – SB3 Behavioral Health Regional Infrastructure Act (BHRIA) Planning Grant**

Dear Administrative Office of the Courts,

I, Pamela Heltner, County Manager, am writing to confirm Otero County, New Mexico's full support for Lincoln County, New Mexico to serve as the Accountable Entity for Behavioral Health Region 12 under the SB3 Behavioral Health Regional Infrastructure Act (BHRIA) Planning Grant.

We recognize the urgency of strengthening behavioral health systems across New Mexico that are responsive, equitable, and sustainable and we understand the role of the Accountable Entity is vital to the success of this effort. We believe the Lincoln County, New Mexico is well positioned to serve as the fiscal agent and coordinating entity to:

- Coordinate regional planning efforts in collaboration with Otero County, Mescalero Apache Tribe, the Administrative Office of the County, the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center, and the Health Care Authority.
- Plan and host the SIM/E-SIM workshop.
- Engage stakeholders across health, justice, and community sectors.
- Plan and co-host community listening sessions to gather meaningful input from stakeholders.
- Establish a Regional Stakeholder Planning Committee with diverse representation from Otero County, Lincoln County, and the Mescalero-Apache Tribe.
- Lead the development and submission of a strong, community-driven Regional Behavioral Health Plan that reflects the needs throughout Behavioral Health Region 12 which will serve as the foundation for future behavioral health investment in our region.

Otero County is committed to working collaboratively with Lincoln County and other regional stakeholders to contribute resources, staff, and in-kind support to develop a regionally-owned behavioral health plan that prioritizes a system that is responsive, equitable, and sustainable for all residents.

Sincerely,



Pamela Heltner  
County Manager