



September 11, 2025

BY EMAIL AND REGULAR MAIL

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Dear Honorable Jicarilla Apache Nation President, Pueblo Governors, Mayors, and Managers:

This concerns the regional planning necessary to implement the Behavioral Health Regional Infrastructure Act (BHRIA), Laws 2025, Chapter 3 (so-called SB 3), generally, and the immediate need to identify an Accountable Entity for our Behavioral Health Region to pursue behavioral health planning funds, specifically. In order to move the regional planning discussion forward in an inclusive way, Los Alamos County, Rio Arriba County, and Santa Fe County would like to convene a virtual meeting of stakeholders on September 17, 2025, at 1:30 p.m.

Contact Person for Meeting Coordination. Anne Ryan, Santa Fe County's Community Services Department Director, is Santa Fe County's point of contact on these efforts. She has agreed to provide logistical support for this meeting. Her email is asryan@santafecountynm.gov; her phone number is 505-995-9538. Please let Anne know as soon as possible who will be attending this meeting on behalf of your government. We sincerely hope to achieve a 100% participation rate.

Recognition of Leaders Who Have Got Us to this Point. Before moving to other background information and logistics, we want to acknowledge and thank State Representatives Susan K. Herrera and Christine Chandler, the State Behavioral Health Executive Committee, New Mexico Health Care Authority, and others who have helped lead the BHRIA implementation efforts to date.

Background information on the BHRIA and meeting logistics follow.

BHRIA and Regional Planning Background. By way of background, as you may know:

- The BHRIA is being implemented by the Behavioral Health Executive Committee, at the State level, and the Behavioral Health Region, at the local planning level;
- The State Behavioral Health Executive Committee has determined that Behavioral Health Regions should generally correspond with judicial districts for State district courts.
- Our Behavioral Health Region, therefore, corresponds geographically to the First Judicial District boundaries of Los Alamos County, Rio Arriba County, and Santa Fe County.
- A Regional Behavioral Health Plan is a condition of receiving funds under the BHRIA.
- The Administrative Office of the Courts, which is responsible for coordinating the development of Regional Behavioral Health Plans, has announced the availability of planning funds for each Behavioral Health Region.
- Only one Accountable Entity per Behavioral Health Region may apply or be awarded a planning grant of up to \$45,000.
- Per the Administrative Office of the Courts:
"The applicant, referred to herein as the "Accountable entity," must be a government, tribe, pueblo, nation, or quasi-government entity within a behavioral health region, and may be designated by the Behavioral Health Executive committee to report upon the status and progress of the regional behavior health planning process. *See* Section 24A-10-4 (G). Each county in the region must submit a letter of support for the Accountable Entity, and Accountable Entities are strongly encouraged to secure letters of support from each tribe, pueblo, or nation within the region."
- Grant fund applications are due September 30, 2025, which is why there is urgency in meeting as soon as possible.

[Attached is the August 18, 2025, announcement from the Administrative Office of the Courts, which requires action from all of us by the September 30 deadline.]

Virtual Meeting Information. As indicated, we are writing to respectfully invite you or a designee to a virtual meeting on September 17, 2025, at 1:30 p.m., so we may collectively start to regionally plan and meet the immediate deadline to apply for planning grants. We are suggesting a virtual meeting, given the geographic size of our region, avoid travel time, and otherwise make the meeting more convenient.

Here is a proposed agenda for the meeting:


1. Regional Behavioral Health Plan
 - a. Discussion of Human and Monetary Resources to Complete Regional Behavioral Health Plan
 - b. Identification of Accountable Entity to Apply for and Administer Regional Planning Funds
 - c. Next Steps in Submitting Application to AOC (e.g., Letters of Support, etc.)
2. Designation of Single Points of Contact for Each Stakeholder
3. Next Meeting

Please note that we will be inviting representatives from the State to answer questions and to provide us with guidance on certain provisions of the funding announcement, specifically, and BHRIA, generally.

In sending this invite and trying to schedule this meeting, we wish to ensure that all stakeholders are involved from the outset in the planning effort necessary for our region to access what could be a generational investment in behavioral health.

Los Alamos County, Rio Arriba County, and Santa Fe County look forward to working with all stakeholders on this significant opportunity to address the behavioral health crisis facing our communities.

Sincerely,


Anne Laurant (Sep 11, 2025 11:58:10 MDT)

Anne Laurant
Los Alamos County Manager

Sincerely,



Jeremy G. Maestas
Rio Arriba County Manager

Sincerely,



Gregory S. Shaffer
Santa Fe County Manager