

# Administrative Office of the Courts

Supreme Court of New Mexico

Karl W. Reifsteck, Director  
Sarah Jacobs, Deputy Director



202 East Marcy Street  
Santa Fe, NM 87501  
(505) 827-4800

May 5, 2026

Senator George Munoz  
Senator Linda Lopez  
Senator Joseph Cervantes

Director Charles Sallee  
Legislative Finance Committee  
325 Don Gaspar Ste 101  
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: May AOC Monthly Update – Behavioral Health Reform and Investment Act (BHRIA)**

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

This monthly report focuses on the latest updates regarding AOC's work to complete the regional planning. As of this writing, twelve of the thirteen workshops have been completed, with the remaining workshop for Region 5 (Lea, Chaves, and Eddy Counties) to be completed May 7, 2026. All regions continue to work diligently on their regional plans in preparation for final submission. Accountable Entities and the AOC are thankful to Senator Munoz and Director Sallee, who joined the April 23rd Executive Committee meeting and encouraged continued progress without fear of making mistakes, a message that resonated as implementation efforts advance.

### **Updates from Behavioral Health Executive Committee from April 23, 2026:**

#### **1. Submittable Platform – Submission Process Paused.**

One outcome of the April BHEC meeting was to pause the use of an online application to submit regional plans. Instead, plans will continue to be submitted as documents following the BHEC-approved templates. AOC anticipates several Regions will submit a comprehensive regional plan over the next several weeks.

- BHEC approved amended motion to have working session of BHEC to review the submissions, transparency, allocations to Native American partners - motion not intended to prevent receipt of BH Regional Plans.

#### **2. BHEC approved Early Access Funding for Region 1 and Region 12.**

- a. Early Access Funding for Region 1 was approved, contingent upon no administrative fees to tribes and one accountable entity, Santa Fe County.

### **3. BHEC conditionally approved Region 2's Plan with direction to clarify Priority 1.**

- a. Amended motion raised and approved contingent upon clarification within 45 days.

### **AOC Transitional Plan**

With the final submission deadline quickly approaching, the AOC will work diligently with HCA to develop a transitional plan to outline the steps, goals, and timeline for moving from the BHRIA planning phase to the implementation phase, minimizing disruption and ensuring continuity in projects, roles, and BHRIA sustainability goals for Accountable Entities.

### **Outstanding Questions**

#### **1. Performance Measure Data Infrastructure**

Will HCA develop and manage a centralized database for performance measure entry and tracking, or will regions be expected to allocate a portion of their funding to support this function? Specific guidance is also requested on integration and access to key data sources, including:

- Health Insurance Exchange datasets
- A real-time provider network list
- Resource data from YESNM Connect
- Substance Use Disorder (SUD) and Mental Health (MH) claims data

#### **2. Early Access Funding – Regional Plan Integration**

How should early access funding should be incorporated into their regional plans:

- Whether it should be reflected as a standalone component or embedded within priority strategies
- Reporting and accountability expectations tied to early access expenditures
- Alignment with future allocation cycles
- With contracts in place, when will Accountable Entities actually receive the funding from DFA/HCA

#### **3. Behavioral Health Funding Layering**

Guidance from HCA experts is requested on allowable uses, sequencing, and the braiding of funds.

- Rural Transformation federal funds
- Opioid Settlement funds
- Medicaid reimbursement
- BHRIA funding
- Behavioral Health Trust Fund

#### **4. Technical Assistance & Oversight Support During Implementation**

Will the HCA provide technical assistance or designated points of contact to regions for:

- Provider credentialing and enrollment
- Certification and licensing requirements

- Support for specialized services such as:
  - Intensive Outpatient Programs (IOP)
  - Comprehensive Community Support Services (CCSS)
  - Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT)
  - Mobile Crisis Services
  - Community-Based Competency Restoration

## **Recommendations**

1. Regions are working with Tribes, Pueblos, and Nations (TPN) on how to incorporate TPN priorities into the plan, many of which are developing a plan to be attached via an addendum to the regional plan. AOC recommends the Legislature consider a carve-out for Sovereign entities in order for direct access to the funding, versus working through the regions.
2. Procurement and billing-related concerns remain consistent questions from the Accountable Entities. Entities continue to seek clarity on whether the Department of Finance and Administration and the Health Care Authority are advancing solutions to address procurement requirements for services that may otherwise qualify for exemption through the HCA. There is a clear need for practical strategies that allow local governments to contract for services in an effective and efficient manner. In response, AOC recommends that HCA engage with the Legislature to explore a statewide administrative services solution that Accountable Entities would utilize in the administration of behavioral health services, rather than requiring each Entity to independently procure these services.
3. Workforce is a priority that is largely consistent across the regions and an issue that must be addressed at the state level. As mentioned in our April report, it is still unclear who is leading the efforts. Section 24A-10-4(I) of BHRIA requires coordination among higher education institutions, the Health Care Authority, the Workforce Solutions Department, and other behavioral health stakeholders to develop a behavioral health workforce pipeline.

## AOC Regional Plan Process Tracking

<b>Regional Milestone Tracking – SB3</b>				
<b>Region</b>	<b>Workshop (Status)</b>	<b>Workshop Date</b>	<b>Listening Sessions</b>	<b>Regional Plan Submission (Status)</b>
Region 1	Completed	12/18/2025 - 12/19/2025	Completed	Draft submitted pending final submission to BHEC
Region 2	Completed	11/20/2025 - 11/21/2025	Completed	Submitted and approved with request for more specificity
Region 3	Completed	2/26/2026 - 2/27/2026	Completed	In Progress
Region 4	Completed	4/14/2026-4/16/2026	Completed	Not Started Pending E-SIM Workshop Report
Region 5	Scheduled	5/05/2026-5/07/2026	Completed	Not Started Pending E-SIM Workshop Report
Region 6	Completed	3/24/2026 - 3/26/2026	Completed	In Progress
Region 7	Completed	3/18/2026 - 3/20/2026	Completed	In Progress
Region 8	Completed	3/11/2026 - 3/13/2026	Completed	In Progress
Region 9	Completed	12/02/2025 - 12/04/2025	Completed	Draft submitted pending final submission to BHEC
Region 10	Completed	4/21/2026 - 4/23/2026	Completed	Not Started Pending E-SIM Workshop Report
Region 11	Completed	12/18/2025 - 12/19/2035	Completed	In Progress
Region 12	Completed	1/14/2026 - 1/16/2026	Completed	In Progress
Region 13	Completed	4/8/2026 – 4/10/2026	Completed	Not Started Pending E-SIM Workshop Report
<p>*Visit the Alliance of Health Councils for more information and details on upcoming regional listening sessions-  <a href="https://www.nmhealthcouncils.org/publichealthevents">https://www.nmhealthcouncils.org/publichealthevents</a></p>				

## Regional Priorities

Report Links ↓	Priority 1:	Priority 2:	Priority 3:	Priority 4:	Priority 5:
<b>Region 10 (Pending)</b>	Treatment and Recovery Supports	Youth and School-Based Supports	Crisis Systems	Community Wellness and Social Connection	Justice, Diversion, and Courts
<b>Region 4 (Pending)</b>	Mobile Crisis/Crisis Center	Resource Centers/Intergenerational Community Center	Workforce Retention and Recruitment	Youth Engagement	Youth Treatment Court
<b>Region 13 (Pending)</b>	Crisis Response, Mobile Services, and 988 Coordination	Clinical Treatment, Recovery, and Service Capacity	Care Coordination, Navigation, and Continuity of Care	Housing, Transportation, and Basic Needs	Workforce Development, Training, and Provider Support
<b>Region 6 (Pending)</b>	Crisis Services and Stabilization	Housing and Basic Needs	Treatment and Recovery Service Access	Workforce Capacity and Development	Youth, Family, and Parental Supports
<b><u>Region 7</u></b>	Housing, Transportation & Basic Needs	Behavioral Health Service Expansion	Community Wellness, Prevention & Stigma Reduction	Youth Engagement, Mentoring & Access to School-Based Behavioral Health Services	Workforce Development
<b><u>Region 8</u></b>	Care Navigation and Coordination	Housing, Transportation, and Community Infrastructure	Youth Programs, Spaces, and Prevention	Workforce and Provider Supports	School-Based Supports and Education
<b><u>Region 3</u></b>	Care Coordination	Transportation	Housing	Workforce	Primary Prevention
<b><u>Region 12</u></b>	Housing	Behavioral Health Care Continuum Expansion	Youth, Family, and Caregiver Supports	Crisis Response Services	Justice and Diversion Services
<b><u>Region 2</u></b>	Policy	Access	Continuum of Care	Social Drivers of Health	Workforce Development

<b><u>Region 9</u></b>	Crisis, Acute, & Higher-Level Care Infrastructure	Housing & Homeless Services	Community-Based Programs for Youth and Adults	Workforce Development	Youth Prevention Programs & Mentorship
<b><u>Region 11</u></b>	Housing, Shelter, and Transportation	Diversion, Specialty Courts, and Justice System Improvements	Coordination and System Integration	Access and Infrastructure for Behavioral Health Services	Prevention, Community and Cultural Support
<b><u>Region 1</u></b>	Workforce and Pipeline Development	Access and Capacity	Prevention, Cultural and Community Spaces	Schools and School-Based Supports	Family and Caregiver Support

Please visit our [New Mexico Courts 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.