

## Behavioral Health Doña Ana County Crisis Triage Center

The Health and Human Services Alliance, a 25-person volunteer board, serves as the primary advisory body to the Dona Ana County Health and Human Services Department. It is intended to improve coordination and collaboration among service providers, nurture public understanding, strengthen accountability, promote informed policy making, and create an opportunity for effective community input.

In 2013, a 12-bed crisis triage center was built next to the County Detention Center. It has been vacant since construction was completed due to a lack of operating funds. With Medicaid expanding its services to include payment for crisis triage centers in its revised Rule, plans for the opening of the center are currently under discussion once again, pending development of facility licensing and program certification standards by DOH and BHSD respectively. It was originally intended to serve as a diversion from incarceration for those with a serious mental health condition, but is now also proposed as a “safe-landing zone” for individuals discharged from the County Detention Center who have an active mental health disorder, estimated at 40% of the total jail population. The County’s Health and Human Services Director estimated in 2017 that there were approximately 86 county residents each month who would benefit from diversion from incarceration and an average of 378 individuals discharged from the Detention Center each month with a mental health condition. Obviously, this potential demand far outstrips the capacity of the center, so additional programming design work remains.

These local behavioral health programs and systems from three of our highest population counties highlight additional local resources and funding available to support provider systems. Other counties and regional coalitions and related care systems could also have been cited, such as Local Collaboratives, housing authorities, faith-based organizations, hospitals and emergency departments, law enforcement and emergency response systems, and many others. In addition to these types of programmatic and financial resources, additional specialized organizations exist to support New Mexico behavioral health provider systems.

<http://newmexico.networkofcare.org/content/client/1446/BHProviderGuideFINAL2018.pdf>  
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