



Michelle Lujan Grisham, Governor
Kari Armijo, Secretary
Dana Flannery, Medicaid Director

November 26, 2025

RE: Tribal Notification to Request Advice and Comments Letter 25-22: Behavioral Health Assessment and Feasibility Study Public Forums

Dear Interested Parties:

The New Mexico Legislature appropriated funding for a comprehensive Behavioral Health Assessment and Feasibility Study during its 2025 session. The New Mexico Health Care Authority (HCA) has contracted with Manatt Health Strategies, LLC to conduct the study, which will examine strengths and gaps in New Mexico's current behavioral health landscape and identify opportunities to strengthen Medicaid and state-funded services and supports for New Mexicans with serious mental illness (SMI), severe emotional disturbance (SED), substance use disorders, and/or brain injuries. As directed by the legislature, the study will examine the "merits, feasibility, costs and likely enrollment in a proposed new Medicaid waiver for people with serious mental illness or substance dependency leading to regular confinement in county jails or intensive overuse of hospital emergency rooms or other emergency or crisis services," as part of a broader examination of the strengths and gaps in New Mexico's behavioral health system. The final report will be completed before the January 2026 legislative session and will inform legislative discussions on potential changes to behavioral health services.

HCA and Manatt Health Strategies, LLC invites you to participate in a virtual public listening session to learn more about the study and share feedback.

Opportunities to Provide Input

HCA seeks input to help shape the Behavioral Health Assessment and Feasibility Study. All interested parties are encouraged to share feedback and ideas during this time by participating in a virtual public listening session or submitting written feedback. We encourage health care and social service providers, Tribal leadership, Indian Health Service, Tribal Nations, Tribal health providers, Urban Indian healthcare providers, Managed Care Organizations (MCOs), New Mexico Medicaid providers, community-based organizations, individuals who use Medicaid and state-funded behavioral health services, their family members, caregivers, advocacy groups, and the public to provide input.

- **Participating in a Virtual Public Listening session.** HCA will host three virtual public listening sessions to receive public feedback on the Behavioral Health Assessment and Feasibility Study—one for individuals who use Medicaid and state-funded behavioral health services, in addition to their family members and caregivers; one for tribal partners; and one for New Mexico Medicaid providers, stakeholders, MCOs, and other interested parties that do not fall into one of the first two groups. These listening sessions will be an opportunity for the community and New Mexico Medicaid partners to learn more about the study, share thoughts about the strengths and gaps of New Mexico's



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behavioral health system, including Medicaid and state-funded behavioral health and brain injury services and identify opportunities to better serve New Mexicans with SMI, SED, substance use disorders, and/or brain injuries. **We encourage Tribal leadership, Indian Health Service, Tribal Nations, Tribal health providers, Urban Indian healthcare providers, community-based organizations, and others to participate in the appropriate listening session below, which will be held virtually through Zoom webinar.** The Tribal Partner Listening Session provides a dedicated space for leadership, staff, and members of Tribes, Nations, and Pueblos to share experiences and priorities related to behavioral health access, care coordination, and Medicaid processes. Input gathered here will directly inform the Study's assessment and recommendations while honoring the distinct role of Tribal governments and Tribal-serving programs. Advance registration is required at bit.ly/BHFS2025 and Zoom webinar information will be provided upon registration.

Provider and Stakeholder Listening Session

December 9, 2025

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. Mountain Standard Time (MST)

Individual, Family Member and Caregiver Listening Session

December 10, 2025

9:30-10:30 a.m. Mountain Standard Time (MST)

Tribal Partner Listening Session

December 11, 2025

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. Mountain Standard Time (MST)

- **Submitting written feedback.** The deadline to provide written public comment is Thursday, December 11, 2025 at 5:00 pm MST. When providing feedback, respondents are encouraged to share their perspective on 1) areas of strength in New Mexico's current behavioral health system, 2) gaps in the current system, 3) changes that they would recommend, and 4) any other thoughts relevant to the comprehensive Behavioral Health Assessment and Feasibility Study. Public comments must be submitted to the following email address to be considered: stakeholdercomment@manatt.com.

Please visit HCA's website for public comment information at <https://www.hca.nm.gov/comment-period-open-2025/#> and <https://www.hca.nm.gov/providers/written-tribal-notification-letters/>.