



Michelle Lujan Grisham, Governor
Kari Armijo, Secretary
Kathy Slater Huff, Deputy Secretary
Niki Kozlowski, Acting Deputy Secretary
Alanna Dancis, Acting Medicaid Director

PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED HEALTH CARE FACILITY TRANSACTION

Pursuant to New Mexico Health Care Consolidation Oversight Act ([NMSA 1978 24A-9-1 through 24A-9-13](#)), the New Mexico Health Care Authority (HCA) Division of Health Improvement (DHI) provides notice of the following proposed transaction:

- **Proposed Transaction Number:** 2026-01
- **Facility Name:** New Mexico Behavioral Healthcare (NMBH), LLC (Albuquerque, NM)
- **Parties Involved:**
 - The Woodland SNF Operator Trust (irrevocable grantor trust)
 - The Woodland SNF Operator Trust II (irrevocable grantor trust)
 - New Mexico Behavioral Healthcare, LLC (Nevada limited liability company)
 - Thrive-NMBH, LLC (Delaware limited liability company)
 - Pinnacle Behavioral Health Systems, LLC
 - AWM Advisory
- **Type of Transaction:** Change of Ownership: The Woodland SNF Operator Trust and The Woodland SNF Operator Trust II propose acquiring 100% ownership of NMBH
- **Date HCA Received Completed Transaction:** October 2, 2025
- **Date by which HCA will render its Decision:** February 6, 2026

The HCA invites public comment during the review period. A public forum will be held to gather feedback (date to be announced). Members of the public may submit comments by:

- Phone: Call (505) 476-9093 (select Option 3 for public comment)
- Email: hca-dhi-public-comment@hca.nm.gov
- Mail: Health Care Authority Division of Health Improvement
P.O. Box H
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504

During the 120-day review period, the HCA will evaluate the proposed transaction based on the eight factors described in the Act:

1. Impact on quality, access, and cost of health care services.
2. Effect on public health and patient safety.
3. Financial stability and viability of the resulting entity.
4. Implications for Medicaid and insured populations.
5. Existing and proposed staffing levels.
6. Community benefits and obligations.

7. Market concentration and competition.
8. Any other factors deemed relevant by the Authority.

At the conclusion of the review, the HCA will issue a written decision on the proposed transaction, which will be one of the following outcomes: Approved, Approved with conditions, or Disapproved. The HCA will notify the parties in writing and post the decision on its website. Proposed Transaction Summary The proposal will move ownership from QHC to QKA which is a not-for-profit corporation. The proposal states that by moving to a not-for-profit organization it will have access to better options for financing and resources required to operate.

List of parties and addresses:

Thrive-NMBH LLC
3450 Oakton
Skokie, Illinois 60076

The Woodland SNF
Operator Trust
c/o Adam Sasouness
16690 Collins Avenue,
#804, Sunny Isles Beach,
FL, 33160

The Woodland SNF
Operator Trust II
c/o Josh Sasouness
787 Eleventh Avenue, 10th
Floor, New York, NY,
10019

Pinnacle Behavioral
Health Systems
9606 Rotherham
Hills Avenue,
Las Vegas, Nevada 89178

AWM Advisory
3016 Strickland Dr.,
Nashville, TN 37221

Statement describing the proposed transaction and how the transaction effects health care services in New Mexico:

The primary goal of the change in ownership is to enhance the quality, accessibility, and continuity of behavioral health services in New Mexico. The incoming ownership group is deeply committed to behavioral health care and will deploy the necessary capital, clinical resources, and administrative leadership to strengthen the delivery of quality care, enhance the expertise of clinical and administrative staff, and expand patient services. Our focus is on building long-term stability and improving outcomes for the communities served by the Facility.

Currently, the Facility operates 18 licensed inpatient psychiatric beds. The new ownership plans to increase its licensed beds by 58, bringing the total licensed beds to 76 beds. This expansion will allow the Facility to serve more patients across a broader range of psychiatric acuity levels while reducing wait times and improving access to critical behavioral health services in the community. Following the change of ownership and subject to the receipt of regulatory approvals, the Facility's programming will address a wide variety of behavioral health conditions, including:

- Anxiety disorders
- Depression
- Bipolar Disorder
- Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
- Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
- Obsessive Compulsive Disorder
- Schizophrenia
- Mood disorders
- Borderline Personality Disorder
- Substance Use Disorder

This expansion is designed to directly address well-documented service gaps in New Mexico. Like many states, New Mexico continues to face a critical shortage of behavioral healthcare service providers, including both inpatient psychiatric beds and outpatient treatment resources. The change in ownership will result in a seamless transition of care, ensuring no disruption to patients, and will ultimately help stabilize and grow the region's behavioral healthcare service offerings.

4 Geographic Area Impacted:

The psychiatric hospital is located in Albuquerque, NM but serves patients from across the state.

Description of groups or individuals likely to be affected by this transaction:

The individuals most directly impacted by this change in ownership are adolescents and adults in need of behavioral healthcare services in New Mexico, particularly in the greater Albuquerque region.

Adolescent Behavioral Health Needs:

- New Mexico ranks 47th nationally in adolescent mental health

Only 33.4% of adolescents with major depression in New Mexico receive any consistent treatment, compared to a national average of 46.8%.

- New Mexico has the highest adolescent suicide rate in the U.S., at 28.3 deaths per 100,000 youth aged 15–19, more than double the national average.
- Youth in New Mexico's foster care system often experience placement instability and inappropriate boarding in emergency shelters due to a lack of adolescent psychiatric beds, particularly in Bernalillo County.

Adult Behavioral Health Gaps:

- An estimated 412,000 adults in New Mexico live with a mental health condition (approx. 1 in 5 adults), but over 50% do not receive any treatment.
- Emergency departments report frequent boarding of psychiatric patients due to a lack of available beds or appropriate step-down programs at behavioral healthcare facilities.

- New Mexico has fewer than 350 adult inpatient psychiatric beds available statewide, or roughly ~40 beds per 100,000 residents, well below the recommended minimum of 50–60 beds per 100,000 residents.

Albuquerque, with a population of over 565,000, is one of the few metropolitan areas in New Mexico with any meaningful behavioral health infrastructure. However, that infrastructure remains unable to satisfy the potential patient demand for assistance, and its available services are insufficient to meet the needs of a growing, high-acuity population.

The incoming ownership team intends to directly address these gaps. With appropriate regulatory approvals, the Facility's activation of 58 new inpatient beds (expanding from 18 to 76) will provide much-needed capacity in a region where individuals often wait days in emergency rooms before accessing care. New programming, including adult PHP, adolescent transportation-supported PHP in accordance with applicable healthcare laws and regulations, and IOP options—will offer alternatives to inpatient care and improve care continuity.

In addition to adolescents, adults and their families, this change will also benefit:

- Medical Surgical Hospitals by alleviating Emergency Room overoccupancy
- School systems, by providing accessible academic-supportive treatment for adolescents
- Judicial and juvenile justice systems by offering court-integrated care paths
- Community providers and referral networks by reducing fragmentation and enabling faster placements of patients to the appropriate care setting

Overall, this ownership change is designed to meet critical, well-documented behavioral health needs in New Mexico where the current system is stretched beyond its limits.

Summary of health care services currently provided by any of the parties and any health care services that will be added, reduced or eliminated, including an explanation of why any services will be reduced or eliminated in the service area in which they are currently provided:

Current Services Provided:

- Acute Inpatient Psychiatric Care for both adults and adolescents, focused on stabilization, medication management, and structured therapeutic interventions.
- Adolescent Partial Hospitalization Program (PHP), offering full-day programming for youth who do not require inpatient admission but need more care service than traditional outpatient therapy.

Planned Service Enhancements and Additions (No Reductions):

- Activation of 58 Additional Inpatient Beds: Expanding capacity from 18 to 76 beds will significantly increase the Facility's ability to serve both adult and adolescent populations. The expansion would, subject to regulatory approval, include licensed units for higher-acuity patients and designated areas for specialized programming (e.g., Substance Use Disorder and Medical detox).
- Adult PHP: This program will provide structured, therapeutic programming five days a week for adults transitioning from inpatient care or requiring intensive support to avoid hospitalization. Services will include psychiatric oversight, individual and group therapy, medication management, and discharge planning.
- Education and Transportation Support for Adolescent PHP: Many adolescents struggle to attend daily programs due to transportation or academic barriers. To address these issues, we plan to partner with local school districts and provide on-site schooling through the LearnWell program, which delivers accredited instruction by certified education professionals to ensure continuity of academic

progress. Additionally, transportation assistance will be offered in accordance with applicable healthcare laws and regulators to reduce access barriers to care and support consistent attendance.

- **Intensive Outpatient Programs (IOP) for Adolescents and Adults:** IOP services will offer therapy 3–5 days per week for several hours per day, serving as a step-down from PHP or an early intervention for those not yet requiring full-day care. Programming will include evidence-based modalities such as CBT, DBT, and trauma-focused therapy.

- **Court-Involved Behavioral Health Programming:** Many adolescents and adults in the justice system face untreated mental health conditions. We are coordinating with local courts and probation programs to establish dedicated referral tracks and compliance monitoring. These services will support diversion programs and reduce recidivism through structured, therapeutic intervention.

All proposed additions are designed to strengthen the behavioral health continuum in the region. No existing services will be reduced or eliminated. Behavioral health disorders are leading contributors to rising healthcare costs due to untreated conditions that drive emergency department visits, hospitalizations, and reduced treatment adherence for physical health issues. By increasing access to behavioral health services, the Facility's services will lead to improved health outcomes, reduced emergency department utilization, fewer avoidable hospitalizations, and better care coordination — all of which will contribute to slowing the rise of healthcare expenses for patients and payers alike. The expansion will directly reduce pressure on local Medical Surgical Hospital's emergency departments and inpatient psychiatric facilities and will provide patients with more appropriate levels of care at every step of their treatment journey.