



**OPTUMHEALTH NOW MANAGING NEW MEXICO'S MENTAL HEALTH AND
SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROGRAMS**

Services Start on Time, Serving People through Five Regional Offices

SANTA FE, N.M. (July 1, 2009) – [OptumHealth Inc.](#) successfully launched its management of mental health and substance abuse benefits for Medicaid and other publicly funded programs across New Mexico on time at 12:01 a.m. today.

“We are looking forward to this new partnership in our tireless quest to improve behavioral health services for New Mexicans,” said Linda Roebuck, chief executive officer of the New Mexico Behavioral Health Collaborative. “The Collaborative has worked closely with OptumHealth over the last six months on a seamless transition for New Mexicans who rely on behavioral health and substance abuse services.”

Since OptumHealth was awarded the contract six months ago, it has hired more than 190 people and built a statewide organization called OptumHealth New Mexico with regional offices in Farmington, Roswell, Las Cruces, Albuquerque and Santa Fe, and a regional team serving Native American communities.

“OptumHealth is committed to helping New Mexico’s policymakers improve the state’s behavioral health system,” said Sandy Forquer, chief executive officer of OptumHealth New Mexico. “This includes locating provider relations, information technology specialists, care coordinators, claims specialists, and peer and family support specialists in the regional offices to help people receive the behavioral health care they need as quickly and efficiently as possible.”

As the statewide entity, OptumHealth New Mexico is charged with administration of all of the combined funds of the New Mexico Behavioral Health Collaborative. The Collaborative consists of 15 state agencies and the Governor’s office, working together to improve behavioral health in New Mexico. These funds meet the behavioral health care needs for roughly 80,000 New Mexicans.

Consumers or their families with questions can call OptumHealth’s toll-free consumer line at 866-660-7185, 24 hours a day, seven days a week; or they can visit www.optumhealthnewmexico.com for more information.

“With a strong presence in the communities we serve and a focus on increasing capacity in rural areas, OptumHealth New Mexico will continue to put consumers and their families on the path to recovery and resiliency,” Forquer said.

OptumHealth serves more than five million public sector members in 38 states with programs that support recovery, resiliency and wellness for people facing behavioral health conditions, chronic illness or complex conditions such as transplants.

About OptumHealth

OptumHealth Inc. helps individuals navigate the health care system, finance their health care needs and achieve their health and well-being goals. The company's personalized health advocacy and engagement programs tap a unique combination of capabilities that encompass public sector solutions, care solutions, behavioral solutions, specialty benefits and financial services. Serving nearly 60 million people, OptumHealth is one of the nation's largest health and wellness businesses, and is a UnitedHealth Group (NYSE: UNH) company. More information about OptumHealth can be found at www.optumhealth.com.

About the Collaborative

The Collaborative was created during the 2004 Legislature to allow most state agencies and resources involved in behavioral health treatment and recovery to work as one in an effort to improve mental health and substance abuse services in New Mexico. This cabinet-level group represents 15 agencies and Governor Bill Richardson's office.

For more information, contact: Chris Cervini
Senior Director of Communications
OptumHealth New Mexico
(505) 428-6578
chris.cervini@optumhealth.com

#####