

October Newsletter



A Quick Look:

- September Quarterly Meeting! (pg. 2)
- October Highlights! (pg. 3)
- LC3's Legislative & Sustainability Action Team! (pg. 4)
- FYI+ Launches Mobile Crisis Team! (pg. 5)
- FYI+ MCT Press Release (pg. 6, Eng.)
- FYI+ Comunicado de prensa del MCT (Equipo Móvil de Crisis) - Español (pág. 7)
- Meet Arlo! (pg. 8)

October is Mental Health Awareness Month

World Mental Health Day takes place on October 10 each year, and in 2024, the World Federation for Mental Health (WFMH) is highlighting the theme: "It is Time to Prioritize Mental Health in the Workplace." This day coincides with the final phase of WFMH's 75th Anniversary Global Campaign, focusing on the importance of mental health and well-being in professional settings.

Our Vision:

To build a behavioral health system that is inclusive, organized, centered on the individual and family, and is committed to advocating for and providing comprehensive mental health and substance use disorder services for people across Doña Ana County, New Mexico.

Contact Information:



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Our Next Meeting

Nov 18th (Tuesday)
10AM-2PM
Hybrid (Vado, NM)

October General Meeting

The October LC3 General Meeting brought together community partners and local leaders for important updates on behavioral health reform in New Mexico. A heartfelt thank-you to our guest speakers—Jamie Michael (Doña Ana County Health and Human Services Department), Christy Brooks (New Mexico Health Care Authority), and Esperanza Lucero (New Mexico Administrative Office of the Courts)—for sharing their time and expertise.

Together, our panelists provided an in-depth overview of Senate Bill 3 (SB3), the Behavioral Health Reform and Investment Act, which establishes 13 behavioral health regions across New Mexico. Doña Ana County will serve as the accountable entity for Region 3, leading the planning and coordination of regional efforts through 2026.

Speakers highlighted ongoing collaboration between the Health Care Authority (HCA) and the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) as they refine funding formulas, develop early access opportunities, and ensure equitable distribution of behavioral health resources statewide. Community input remains a vital part of this process—the next Behavioral Health Executive Committee meeting will take place on November 12 in Santa Fe, with both in-person and hybrid attendance options available.

Featured Guest Speakers



Jamie Michael
Director
Health & Human Services
Doña Ana County

Jamie Michael serves as director of the Doña Ana County Health and Human Services Department where she oversees county health care funding, health promotion programs, as well as behavioral health and criminal justice efforts. Jamie earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education, with a major in Community Health, from the University of New Mexico. She has worked in the public health field for over 25 years. In addition to her work with county government, she has worked in academic institutions and non-profit organizations. Jamie is also a certified collaborative action team facilitator, child passenger safety instructor, and mental health first aid instructor. As a native New Mexican, Jamie spent her childhood on one of the largest Spanish land-grants in the State. She currently lives in Las Cruces where she is raising two children.



Kristie Brooks, MS, LPC
Director of Behavioral
Health Transformation
and Innovation
**New Mexico Health
Care Authority**

Kristie Brooks serves as the Director of Behavioral Health Transformation and Innovation for the New Mexico Health Care Authority. With more than 20 years of experience in behavioral health leadership, Kristie has dedicated her career to strengthening systems of care across tribal, state, and rural communities. In her role, she oversees implementation of Senate Bill 3, the Behavioral Health Reform and Investment Act, guiding statewide efforts to build a more coordinated, equitable, and sustainable behavioral health system for New Mexico.



Esperanza Lucero
Behavioral Health
Integration and Reform
Administrator
**Administrative Office of
the Courts**

Esperanza Lucero is a seasoned public sector leader with over 14 years of experience in public health, aging services, and emergency response. She has served in key leadership roles, including Director of the Center for Health Protection at the New Mexico Department of Health and Director of Adult Protective Services, where she developed nationally recognized prevention, intervention, and harm reduction initiatives, expanded the workforce, and reduced client recidivism to under 1%. She is a recipient of the President's Award for Leadership Excellence from the National Adult Protective Services Association. Her career encompasses statewide epidemiology, emergency response, behavioral health integration, and protective services innovation. She holds an MBA and MSW from New Mexico Highlands University and a BA in Criminal Justice from New Mexico State University.

October Highlights

LC3 Team Shows the Power of Participation

The LC3 team recently came together to exercise their right to vote, highlighting the importance of civic participation and community engagement. Voting is one of the most meaningful ways to contribute to positive change and ensure that every voice is represented. By taking the time to show up and participate, the team reinforced the value of involvement, unity, and shared responsibility in shaping a stronger future for our community.



Anna Age 8 Conference

Santa Fe, NM

LC3 was proud to join our interns and partners at the DACC Community Resource Fair on September 17th at the Sunland Park campus. With more than 20 community partners present, the fair connected residents to academic, health, and job resources while also building stronger local networks. Our team had the opportunity to share information about LC3's work and engage directly with community members, strengthening relationships that support advocacy, collaboration, and access to resources. We are grateful to Doña Ana Community College for hosting and to all the partners who made this event a success.



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Where Advocacy Meets Action and Community Voices Shape the System.

Join our LC3 Legislative & Sustainability Action Team Today!

Our Mission

Empowering our community to engage, advocate, and shape behavioral health legislation while building sustainable funding for lasting impact.



Now meeting Bi-Weekly, virtually on
Thursdays

Who We Are



The LC3 Behavioral Health Collaborative is a collective impact initiative dedicated to building an inclusive, responsive, and community-centered behavioral health system. Our Legislative & Sustainable Funding Action Team focuses on advancing policy and funding solutions through community education & capacity building that reflect the voice of the community.

Interested?

Scan QR Code or go to <https://tinyurl.com/LC3ActionTeam>
To Join & Learn More



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FYI+ Launches Mobile Crisis Team

FYI+ FAMILIES & YOUTH INNOVATIONS PLUS

MOBILE CRISIS TEAM
 CALL OR TEXT

988



YOUR LIFELINE ANYTIME

Serving Doña Ana County with 24/7 Crisis Services, including Mobile Crisis Response - available by calling or texting 988.

LEARN MORE!

fyiplusnm.org
 575.522.4004
 contact@fyinm.org



FYI+ FAMILIES & YOUTH INNOVATIONS PLUS

EQUIPO MÓVIL DE CRISIS
 LAMA O ENVÍA UN MENSAJE DE TEXTO

988



TU LÍNEA DE VIDA EN CUALQUIER MOMENTO

Sirviendo al condado de Doña Ana con servicios de crisis 24/7 incluida respuesta de crisis móvil, disponible llamando o enviando un mensaje de texto al 988.

¡APRENDE MÁS!

fyiplusnm.org
 575.522.4004
 contact@fyinm.org



Families & Youth Innovations Plus (FYI+) has launched a 24/7 Mobile Crisis Team (MCT) to address mental health and substance use emergencies across Doña Ana County. Operated through FYI+'s Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC), the team is available year-round and can be dispatched by calling 988, the Suicide & Crisis Lifeline. The MCT provides on-site assessments, de-escalation, emotional support, and safety planning to ensure individuals in crisis receive trauma-informed care without unnecessary hospitalization or arrest. This initiative expands FYI+'s commitment to accessible, person-centered behavioral health services and strengthens the continuum of care for residents across the county.

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For Immediate Release

Contact:

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Families & Youth Innovations Plus Launches Mobile Crisis Team to Address Mental Health Emergencies in Dona Ana County

October 28, 2025 (LAS CRUCES, NM) - Families & Youth Innovations Plus (FYI+), the sole Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) serving Doña Ana County, has launched a 24/7 Mobile Crisis Team (MCT) to respond to mental health and substance use-related crisis situations. The MCT will be dispatched via the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline and available to all ages county-wide.

"Our Mobile Crisis Team will be available anytime, 365 days a year," said FYI+'s Director of Clinical Services Michelle Schilling, "And, it will be very easy for someone having a mental health crisis to contact 988."

To request the FYI+ Mobile Crisis Team, anyone may call 988. The 988 operator will assess the situation, and if a mobile response is needed and accepted by the caller, the team will be dispatched to the location of the crisis. A response team will include a licensed clinician and a trained crisis provider.

The mobile crisis team will offer an on-site mental health assessment, a brief intervention, de-escalation, and emotional support. In addition, the team will provide safety planning & connection to ongoing care, which could include outpatient therapy, other support services, or hospitalization, if necessary.

"One of the many benefits of having a trained mobile crisis team dispatched for a behavioral health crisis, is to provide a trauma-informed response that could potentially mitigate the need for emergency services for those who may not need immediate hospitalization or arrest," said Schilling.

As the only CCBHC in Doña Ana County, FYI+ continues its commitment to uplift the lives of all individuals. Through this certification, FYI+ has been dedicated to providing comprehensive, person-centered mental health services, substance use treatment, and primary care screening to anyone seeking care, regardless of their ability to pay or life circumstances.

"As a CCBHC, FYI+ has expanded and strengthened our continuum of care model, which includes resources, supports, and clinical behavioral health services," said Chief Executive Officer Brian Kavanaugh, "The availability of our mobile crisis response team reinforces our 'no-wrong-door' approach and allows us to meet participants where they are, in their most vulnerable moments."

-more-

Building on the foundation of the CCBHC, FYI+ is actively planning to expand vital resources, supports, and services to additional areas in Anthony and Hatch, enhancing access to mental healthcare to more neighbors in Doña Ana County. To learn more about FYI+, visit: fyiplusnm.org and/or call us at: 575.522.4004.

ABOUT:

Families & Youth Innovations Plus (FYI+) has been serving families, youth, and the community since 1977. We provide essential resources, supports, and services through multiple entry points to our agency including our Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC); La Vida Project Youth Success Center; and The Juntos Project Family Success Center. FYI+ exists to uplift the lives of ALL individuals and communities we serve across all domains of wellbeing. FYI+ has a proven track record of serving Doña Ana County's diverse and underserved communities, including individuals & families across all income levels, BIPOC communities, LGBTQ+ individuals & families, and others. Learn more at: fyiplusnm.org.

Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs) are specially designated clinics that provide a comprehensive range of outpatient mental health, substance use disorder, and primary care screening services, serving youth and adults of all ages. CCBHCs provide access to integrated, evidence-based substance use disorder and mental health services, including 24/7 crisis response and medication-assisted treatment. CCBHCs serve anyone who walks through the door, regardless of their age, diagnosis, and insurance status. Learn more at: <http://nmrecovery.org/ccbhc>.

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MEET OUR NEW STAFF



Arlo Menchaca is passionate about improving the lives of New Mexicans through data-driven, community-centered policy. His interests include prevention, public safety, public health, and education. Arlo is skilled in policy analysis, program evaluation, and data-informed decision-making, gaining both academic and hands-on experience through collaborative projects.

Raised in Hobbs, NM, Arlo moved to Albuquerque in 2015 to earn a BA with a double major in Psychology and Philosophy (concentration in pre-law) from UNM, where he focused on research, data analysis, political thought, and ethics. One of the most meaningful experiences in his academic career involved facilitating a community evaluation where he learned the value of adaptability and meeting people where they are to achieve shared goals. He is excited to join a team of like-minded people who are working toward bringing good to the people who need it most.

Arlo Menchaca
 (He, Him)
 Innovative
 Community
 Services - ICS
 Youth Systems
 Coordinator
 FYI+

LC3 THANKS YOU & ...

its supporters, Families & Youth
 Innovations Plus, the Paso del Norte
 Foundation & the Health Care Authority
 & its training partners



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