



## *In Doña Ana County*



## **A National Initiative to Reduce the Number of People with Mental Illnesses in Jails**

**Stepping Up Efforts** - The Doña Ana County Board of Commissioners passed a resolution designating our county as a participant in the Stepping Up Initiative. Agencies and individuals came together to lay the ground work for addressing this issue. These groups are currently working on 1) jail diversion options to avoid incarceration; 2) community re-entry services to reduce recidivism; 3) comprehensive behavioral health crisis response system improvements; and 4) data collection and tracking tools.

Current projects include:

- Establishing the crisis triage center to serve as a safe diversion and re-entry center
- Collaboration between the 9-1-1 Center and the New Mexico Crisis Access Line
- Developing a psychiatric residency program
- Planning for more supportive housing

**Assisted Outpatient Treatment Program** - Doña Ana County was awarded a SAMHSA grant to pilot an AOT program. The county's HHS Department and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Judicial District Court entered into an agreement to implement AOT. La Clinica de Familia is the treatment provider, Memorial Medical Center is the referring hospital, and several other organizations are collaborating to provide social support services as needed.

Current progress includes:

- Five AOT hearings resulting in four people receiving care
- Building capacity of the Assertive Community Treatment team
- Increasing the number of certified peer support specialists
- Increasing the number of classes available through NAMI
- Approval by the Internal Review Board at NMSU for evaluation

**Other County Programs** – In addition to these projects, Doña Ana County HHS Department also supports behavioral healthcare through the following:

- The county's indigent healthcare program, which includes behavioral health and integrated care services through contracts with three providers.
- The LDWI program, which provides access to substance abuse treatment and detox services for offenders.
- Health promotion activities such as MHFA classes, promotora training, and opioid/substance use prevention education.