

NM Legislative Health & Human Services Committee

Presentation

September 3, 2021

Taos County

Adult Substance Use Disorders &

Mental Health

Status Update

Introduction

Lawrence A. Medina, MBA, Executive Director

Rio Grande Alcoholism Treatment Program, Inc.

National, State, & Local Involvement

- *Member*, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Center for Substance Abuse Treatment National Advisory Council, Rockville, Maryland, April 2016 to Present
- *Board Member*, Faces and Voices of Recovery, Washington, DC, December 2020 to Present
- *Board Member*, Behavioral Health Providers' Association of New Mexico, July 2020 to Present
- *Chairperson*, New Mexico Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SABG) Block Grant Independent Peer Review Committee, Taos, NM, January 2010 to Present
- *Board Member*, Taos County Health Council, Taos, NM, January 2021 to Present

About Rio Grande Alcoholism Treatment Program, Inc.

- Nationally accredited through the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF)- Intensive Outpatient Treatment for Substance Use Disorders/Addictions
- Providing Substance Use Disorders and Co-Occurring Disorders Treatment for 43 years. Currently serving Taos and San Miguel Counties.
- Recovery-Friendly Taos County- Peer Support Program (Recovery Community Organization)

Taos County Demographics- Key Indicators

Categories	Taos County	New Mexico
Population	32,723	2,096,829
White alone	36%	37%
Hispanic/Latino	56%	49%
African American	1%	3%
American Indian	7.5%	11%
Sex & Age		
Female	51%	50%
Persons under 18	17%	23%
Persons over 65	28%	18%
Veterans		
Veterans 2011-2015	2,629	144,977
Unemployment		
Taos County	9.5%	7.7%
Income & Poverty		
Median Household Income	\$38,329	\$49,754
Persons in Poverty	18.2%	18.2%
Medicaid Recipients	44.8%	40%

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, New Mexico 2020
 NM Workforce Solutions 2021
 Health Indicator Report of Medicaid Enrollment 2018

New Mexico Substance Use Epidemiology Profile

New Mexico Substance Use Epidemiology Profile- February 2021

Rates 2015-2019 (per 100,000)	*Taos County
Alcohol-Related Death	7th
Alcohol-Related Chronic Disease Death	6th
Alcohol-Related Chronic Liver Disease Death	9th
Chronic Liver Disease Hospital Discharges	7th
Alcohol-Related Injury Death	10th
Alcohol-Related Motor Vehicle Traffic Crash Death	8th
Drug Overdose Death	10th
Opioid Overdose Related Emergency Department Visits	2nd
Suicide Death	6th
Adult Binge Drinking	7th
Adult Heavy Drinking	2nd
Adult Drinking and Driving (past 30 days)	3rd
*Ranking per 33 in New Mexico Counties	

Pandemic Crisis- COVID-19

The combination of COVID-19, economic problems, racial protests, and political division in 2020 has resulted in:

- **Increase Mental Health Problems**
- **Increase Substance Abuse**
- **Increase overdoses**
- **Increased Suicides**

Taos County Major Public Funded Programs

Current Continuum of Care

Adult Substance Use Disorders and Mental Health Treatment

Early Intervention

- TeamBuilders (mental health)- As of August 1, 2021
- Rio Grande Alcoholism Treatment Program
- Presbyterian Medical Services (PMS)- Questa
- Human Resources Development Associates, (HRDA)
- El Centro Family Health- Taos & Peñasco
- Independent Therapist

Detoxification Center

- **No Services available in Taos**
- *Hoy Recovery- Espanola – waiting list & limited*
- *Santa Fe Recovery- waiting list & limited*
- *Turquoise Lodge- Albuquerque*

Residential Treatment (30 days to 90 days)

- **No Services available in Taos**
- *Hoy Recovery- Espanola- waiting list & limited*
- *Santa Fe Recovery- waiting list & limited*
- *Turquoise Lodge- Albuquerque- waiting list & limited*

Outpatient Treatment

- TeamBuilders (mental health)- As of August 1, 2021
- Rio Grande Alcoholism Treatment Program
- Human Resources Development Associates, (HRDA)
- Presbyterian Medical Services (PMS)- Questa
- El Centro Family Health- Taos & Peñasco
- Independent Therapists

Intensive Outpatient Treatment

- Rio Grande Alcoholism Treatment Program
- Golden Willow Counseling
- Pinwheel Healing Center

Crisis Stabilization Unit

- Holy Cross Hospital- very limited

Current Continuum of Care *Continuation...*

Medication Assisted Treatment- Suboxone (buprenorphine)

- Presbyterian Medical Services (PMS)- Questa
- El Centro Family Health- Taos
- Pinwheel Healing Center
- Private Physicians

Medication Assisted Treatment- Methadone

- **No Services available in Taos**

Peer Support Program

- Recovery-Friendly Taos County

Transitional Living Program

- DreamTree Project- 16 to 24 years of age only
- *Delancey Street Foundation- Ohkay Owingeh- (limited)*
- *Darrin's Place- Espanola*

Gaps in the Continuum of Care

- Mental Health Services & Crisis Response
- Detox Center
- Crisis Stabilization Unit
- Residential Treatment
- Gender Specific Transitional Living

Strengthen the Continuum of Care

- Mental Health Services & Crisis Response
- Detox Center (Phase One) to open in near future
- Crisis Stabilization Unit (Phase Two)
- Residential Treatment Center
- Transitional Living Programs- Gender Specific

Increase Resources to Improve the Continuum of Care

- Through the American Rescue Plan Act & SAMHSA
- Detox Center: Reinstate \$300,000 perpetual operating funding lost when the center closed in 2015
- Address the workforce shortage of counselors and therapist thru incentives for recruitment and retention
- Expand evidence-based treatment programming within the Judicial System (including Detention Center)

Collaborate Regionally- Continuum of Care

- Taos County
- Regional Tribal Entities
- Colfax County
- Union County
- Mora
- San Miguel

Proposed Timeframes

Short-Term (next 12 Months)

- Support TeamBuilders rebuild mental health services
- Funding for (Phase One) Detox Center
- Increase Medicaid billing technical assistance

Mid-Term (12-24 Months)

- Fully implement (Phase Two) Crisis Stabilization Unit
- Planning/Business Development: Residential Treatment Center and Transitional Living Programs

Long-Term (2 to 5 Years)

- Open Residential Treatment Center
- Open Transitional Living Centers- Gender Specific

Thank You

Questions and Answers

Contract Information

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