



Opioid Settlement Funds: An Update

Presentation by:

Dr. Wayne Lindstrom, Bernalillo County Deputy County Manager of Behavioral Health

Stanford Kemp, City of Albuquerque Deputy Director-Behavioral Health and Wellness Division

Shauna Hartley, LCSW, Opioid Remediation Collaborative

Barbara Bencomo, City of Las Cruces Chief Administrative Officer

OVERVIEW

Since May, a group representing local and state entities has been meeting to share ideas and progress regarding our respective work with opioid settlement funds.

The group is represented by officials from:

City of Albuquerque

County of Bernalillo

City of Las Cruces

County of Doña Ana

State of New Mexico Department of Health

Counties of Valencia, Socorro, Sierra, Hidalgo, Catron, Cibola, and Guadalupe

Vital Strategies

New Mexico Counties

Today's presentation is a summary of our efforts in our respective communities.



Count on us.

BERNCO.GOV



Funding Status as of 8/31/2024

Bernalillo County has received \$24.6 million.

Expenditures:

- \$1,004,829, Keep NM Alive marketing campaign
- \$579,749, Metropolitan Detention Center buprenorphine program

Available Balance: \$23,463,000

City of Albuquerque has received \$27.7 million.

Expenditures:

- \$1,500,000, Metropolitan Detention Center buprenorphine program
- \$300,000, Keep NM Alive marketing campaign
- \$1,200,000, Support services for treatment and recovery
- \$900,000, Other strategies for opioid treatment support programs
- \$5,000,000, Recovery Micro Community

Available Balance: \$18,800,000 estimated



Count on us.

BERNCO.GOV



STRATEGIC PLANNING

- Bernalillo County and City of Albuquerque Resolutions of 2023 required both entities to contract with an outside entity to help develop a plan of action for use of opioid settlement funds.
- Vital Strategies provided in-kind technical assistance on legal/regulatory, communications, data and evaluation, and drug policy issues to develop the draft strategic plan. Vital Strategies did the following:
 1. Coordinated technical assistance to the city and county planning teams
 2. Conducted a rapid landscape analysis from April 25-Aug. 31
 3. Facilitated public input and community engagement activities from April 25-Sept. 13
 4. Presented the draft strategic plan to the Local Government Coordinating Commission on Oct. 24, 2024





PROPOSED STRATEGIES

Collaborative Planning and Coordination

1. Formalize Intergovernmental Cooperation
2. Dedicated Coordination Role
3. Native Nations Consultation and Collaboration
4. Community Advisory Board

Inclusive Funding and Financing Strategies

5. Low Barrier Funding
6. Fund Culturally Specific Services and Programs
7. Native Nations Allocation
8. Provider Participation in Medicaid

Accountable Monitoring and Evaluation

9. Data-Driven Approach
10. Transparency and Reporting

Equity-centered Interventions

11. Prioritize Key Populations
12. Compassionate Messaging

Crisis Response

13. Expand Mobile Crisis Response Services
14. Treatment Through Emergency Medical Services
15. Leveraging the Sobering Center

Prevention

16. Comprehensive Education
17. Connecting Disconnected Youth

Harm Reduction

18. Safer Use Supplies
19. Naloxone Where it Counts
20. Overdose Prevention Center
21. Caring for People Who Use Stimulants

Treatment

22. Treatment Expansion in Jail
23. Community-Based Treatment Access and Quality

Recovery

24. Comprehensive Recovery Support
25. Recovery Housing

Stabilizing Supports

26. Anti-Discrimination Policies
27. Peer Support
28. Civil Legal Aid



Count on us.

BERNCO.GOV



NEXT STEPS

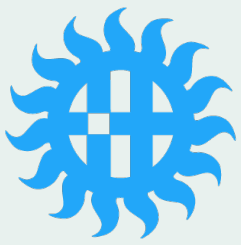
1. Vital Strategies presented the draft strategic plan to the Local Government Coordinating Commission comprised of:
 - a. City of Albuquerque councilors
 - b. County of Bernalillo commissioners
 - c. Albuquerque Public Schools' board members

 2. The LGCC has convened a subgroup to review the strategic plan and offer recommendations/revisions for next steps for the city and county.
-



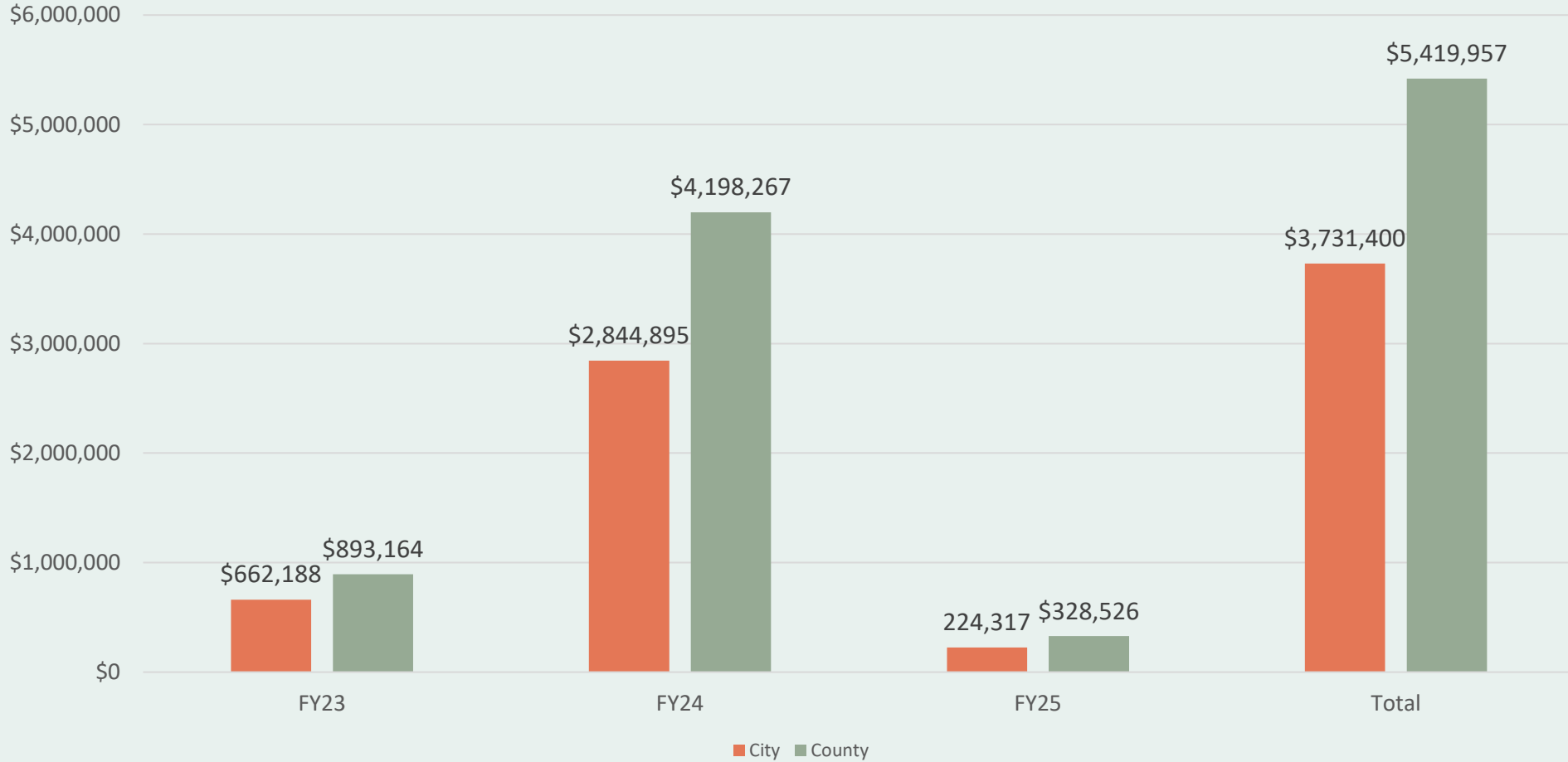
City of Las Cruces and Doña Ana County Collaboration

- ***Expected Funding***
 - City: \$9.9M
 - County \$14.5M
 - ***Collaborative Process***
 - Joint community advisory council
 - One spending plan with recommendations for each local government
 - Coordination with State and other jurisdictions
-



CITY OF LAS CRUCES

Funds Received to Date





PARTNERSHIPS

New Mexico State University, Crimson Research

- Participates in advisory council
- Completed local needs assessment
- Provide on going assessment and evaluation

Vital Strategies

- Providing technical assistance for needs assessment assistance, strategic planning
 - Provided funding for opioid settlement coordinator position and needs assessment (NMSU, Crimson Research)
-



OPIOID SETTLEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

- **Provides recommendations to council and commission**
- **Based on Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health best-practice**

Advisory Council Members include 11 individuals:

- People with lived/living experience
- Public health, such as local health department or school of public health
- Youth prevention specialists, such as school-based clinicians and staff
- Treatment providers, particularly those that engage with traditionally underserved populations
- Recovery and other social service organizations
- Other local stakeholders





Identify stakeholders/advisory council members	Completed
Conduct preliminary needs assessment- Crimson Research	Complete
Provide preliminary information to city/county- Working Session	Complete
Prioritize, research, focus groups and local data collection	Complete
Final Needs Assessment- Crimson Research	Complete
Select priority Core Abatement Strategies	Complete
Provide initial recommendations to local government	January
Develop Strategic Plan for first two years of spending	February-March
Monitor and evaluate the funded programs and report use of funds	Ongoing



Accomplishments and Next Steps

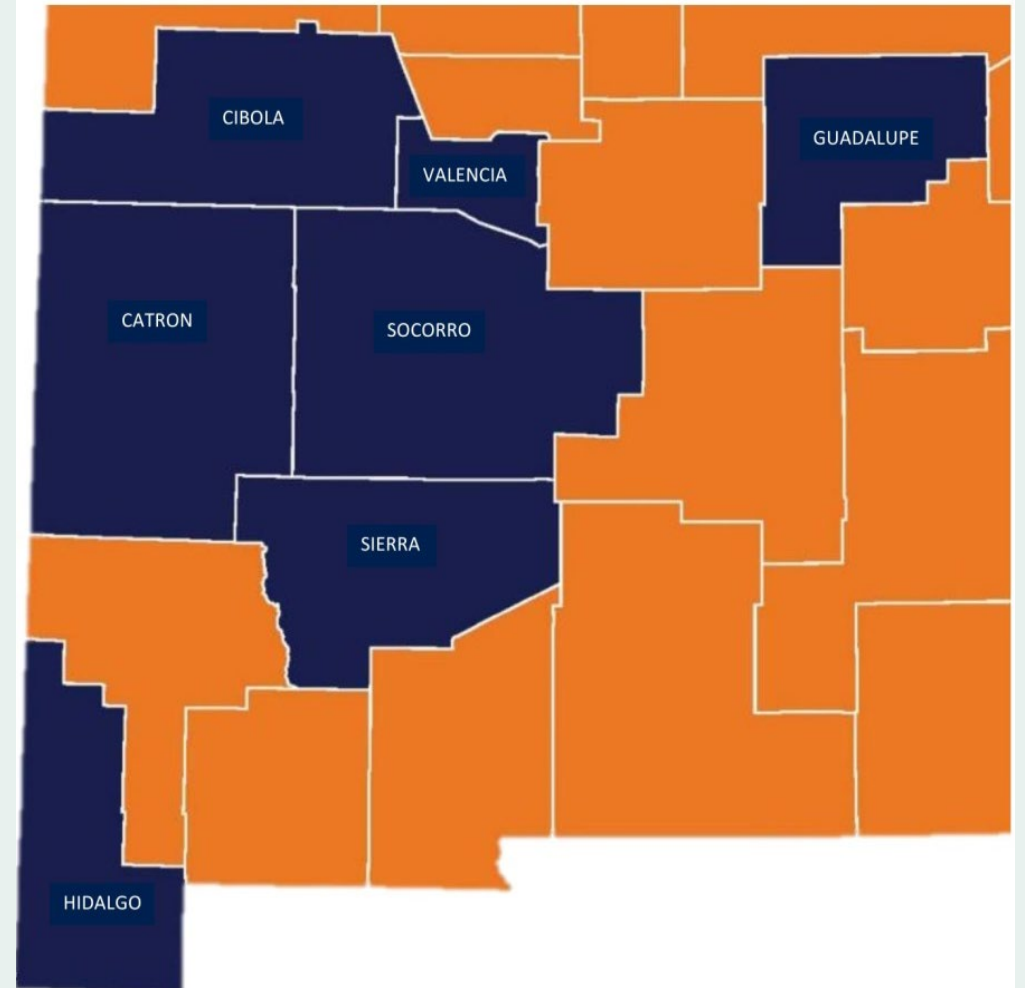
- Initial needs assessment completed
 - Three (3) core strategies selected
 - Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Distribution and Other Opioid Related Treatment
 - Expansion of Warm Hand Off Programs and Recovery Services
 - Prevention Programs
 - Related indicators and activities identified by using the Opioid Settlement Principles Resource and Indicators (OSPRI) tool.
 - Council and Commission decision on recommended core strategies
 - Strategic plan development
 - Contracts and funding implementation
 - Monitor, report and evaluate
-



Opioid Remediation Collaborative

Who Are We?

- **Seven Rural Counties**
- **Unique population size and diverse demographics**
- **Tribal and Pueblo representation**
- **Almost 70 schools, 19,000 students**
- **Rely heavily on volunteer emergency services**
- **256 Practitioners**
- **21 Federally Qualified Health Centers**
- **4 Rural Hospitals, one hospital is being built!**
- **3 Detention Centers and 6 State Prisons**





2024 Allocation for Each County

ORC COUNTY	BOARD MEMBER	FUNDING ALLOCATION
Valencia County	Danny Monette	\$3,412,670.31
Sierra County	Amber Vaughn	\$1,249,983.10
Cibola County	Commissioner Christine Lowery	\$936,490.82
Hidalgo County	Tisha Green	\$238,332.87
Guadalupe County	Diana Urban	\$226,653.24
Socorro County	Andy Lotrich	\$181,324.47
Catron County	Loren Cushman	\$140,283.79
TOTAL		\$6,385,738.60



ORC NEEDS ASSESSMENT

(June 2023-August 2024)

- **Quantitative Data** (*National & New Mexico*)
- **Qualitative Data**
- **7** County Stakeholder Groups completed
- **7** Community Groups completed
- **50+** Interviews with a variety of government entities, community members, addiction specialists and/or Stakeholders





SEVEN-COUNTY FOCUS GROUP PRIORITIES

Prevention

- Youth **#1 PRIORITY POPULATION**
- All counties support media campaigns to prevent opioid misuse
- Prevention & education program in the school
- All counties want more training for NARCAN use for first responders and school personnel (in-person training was preferred)
- Updated resource guides & promotion of local MAT services

Treatment

- Adults **#1 PRIORITY POPULATION**
- Increased local MAT services, ranging from inpatient to outpatient
- Housing when transitioning out of treatment and/or incarceration
- Navigation resources to link people to treatment
- Immediate access to non-medical transportation when individuals are ready for recovery services



COMMUNITY LISTENING REQUESTS

- ✓ Decrease stigma!
- ✓ Improve recovery community support and services through drop-in centers and addiction support groups (*AA, NA, Smart Recovery, groups for families & grandparents*)
- ✓ Improve internet connectivity
- ✓ Prevention and treatment providers need to improve relationships and collaboration
- ✓ Increase collaboration with faith-based organizations
- ✓ Increase support for law enforcement (i.e. support with crisis response and/or service linkage; education on addiction)
- ✓ Improve non-medical transportation options
- ✓ Improve recovery housing opportunities
- ✓ Provide education to hospice providers and caretakers about the risk associated with diversion of opioid medication
- ✓ Improve community members ability to meet basic needs



WHAT DID THE STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS REVEAL?

- Decrease stigma!
- Access to addiction medication needs to improve, *particularly methadone*
- Improve ability to fill prescriptions in rural county pharmacies
- Improve utilization of rural hospitals
- Employ more Peer Support and Community Health Workers
- Bring back “drug court” programs
- Support Law enforcement
- RISE Program





WEB PAGE CREATION & BRANDING

- Branding & Logo created!



- Website created! orcnm.com
 - ✓ **Home Page**- Defines who we are & gets people interested in our project
 - ✓ **County Page**-Highlights our 7 counties & County Managers
 - ✓ **ORC Events & Activities Page**
 - ✓ **Resource & Training Page**- NM Treatment and Prevention resources and trainings

Thank You!

Dr. Wayne Lindstrom, Bernalillo County, wlindstrom@bernco.gov

Stanford Kemp, City of Albuquerque, skemp@cabq.gov

Barbara Bencomo, City of Las Cruces, bdeleon@lascruces.gov

Shauna Hartley, Opioid Remediation Collaborative, shartley@q.com



ORC: Supplemental Section

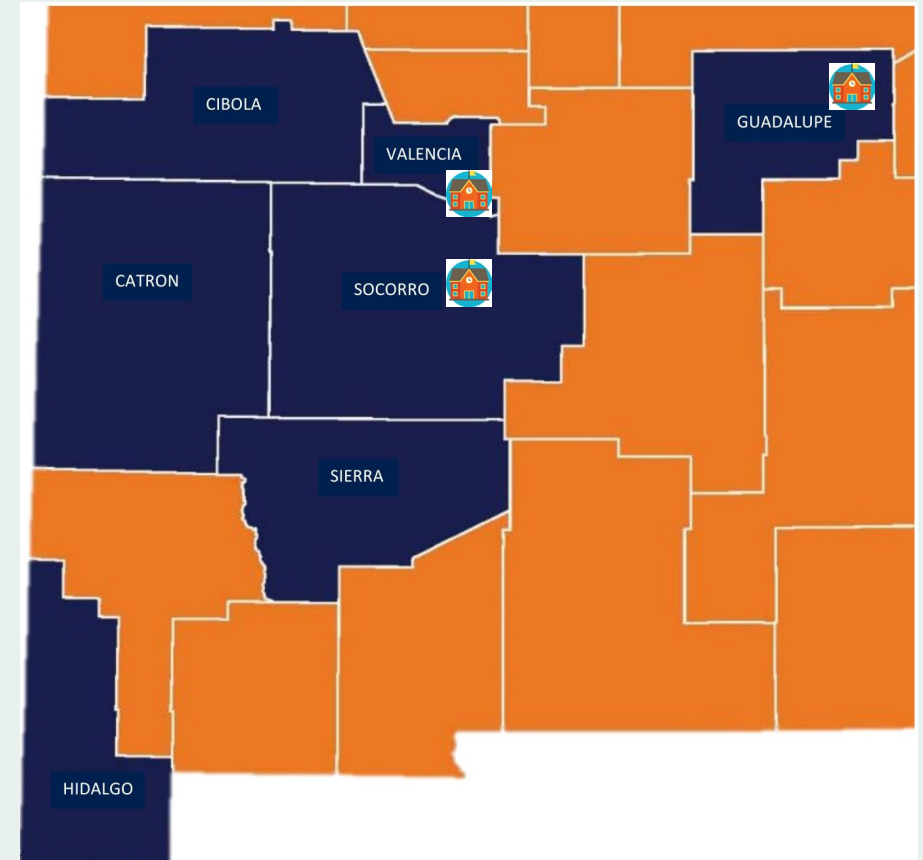


ORC PROGRESS REPORT: PREVENTION

Prevention Strategy #1: Promote opioid misuse prevention through media campaigns

NOVEMBER UPDATE

- ✓ Digital boards and prevention poster boards have been installed in 13 schools
- ✓ 22 schools left to install
- ✓ 4 Prevention Posters (Socorro & Valencia)
- ✓ Geo-fencing promoting prevention activated in county zip codes



ORC PROGRESS REPORT: PREVENTION

Prevention Strategy #2: Provide NARCAN training for First Responders, School Personnel and Community Members

NOVEMBER UPDATE

- ✓ Training module is completed & ready to schedule training with community partners

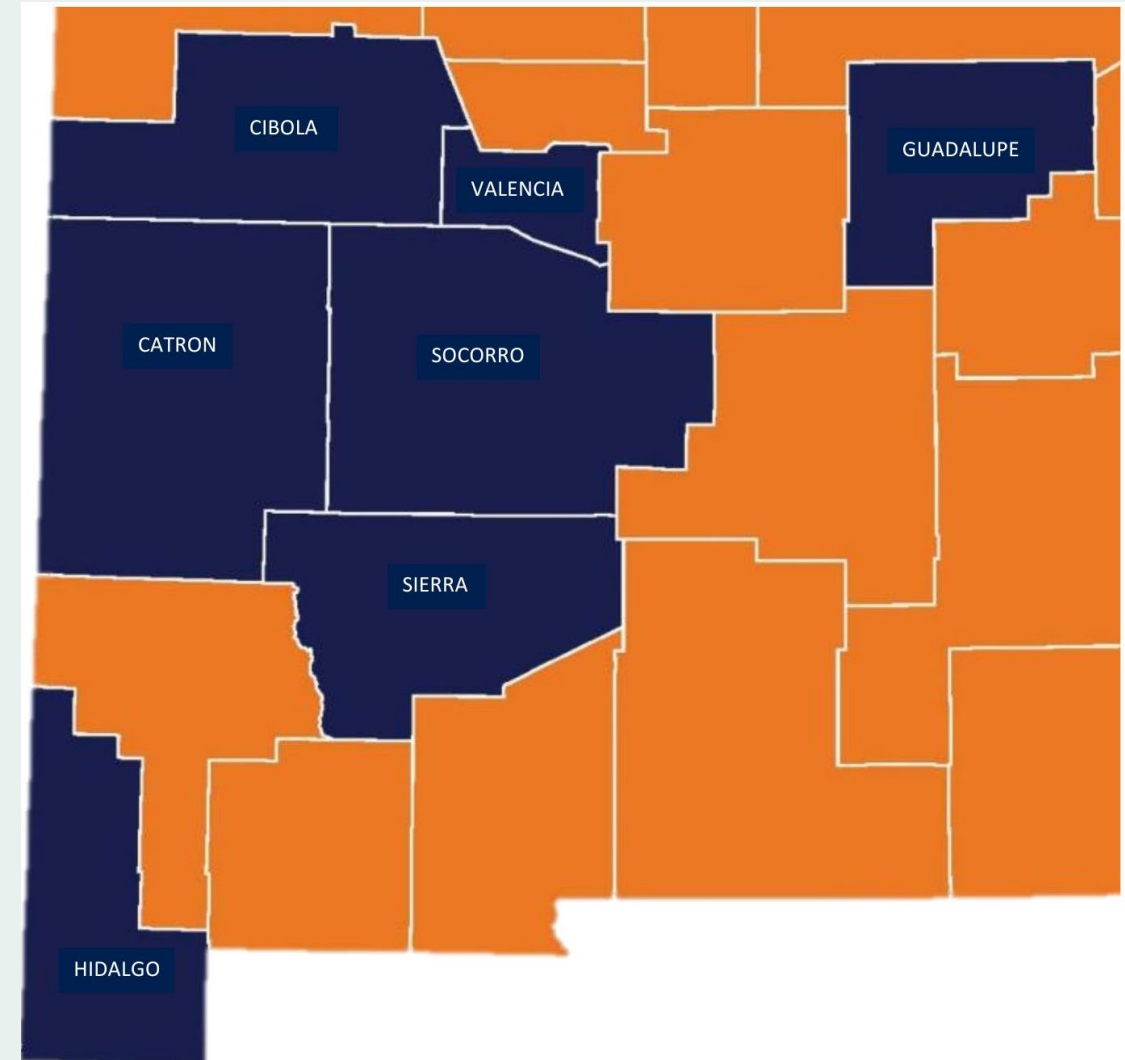


ORC PROGRESS REPORT: PREVENTION

Prevention Strategy #3: Stand-up Stanford REACH Lab “Safety First” prevention education curriculum in High Schools

NOVEMBER UPDATE

- ✓ Safety First curriculum condensed into 8 weeks (school request)
- ✓ ORC can provide technical assistance, power points and support to school teams now!
- ✓ **First school to implement:** Infinity High School in Belen



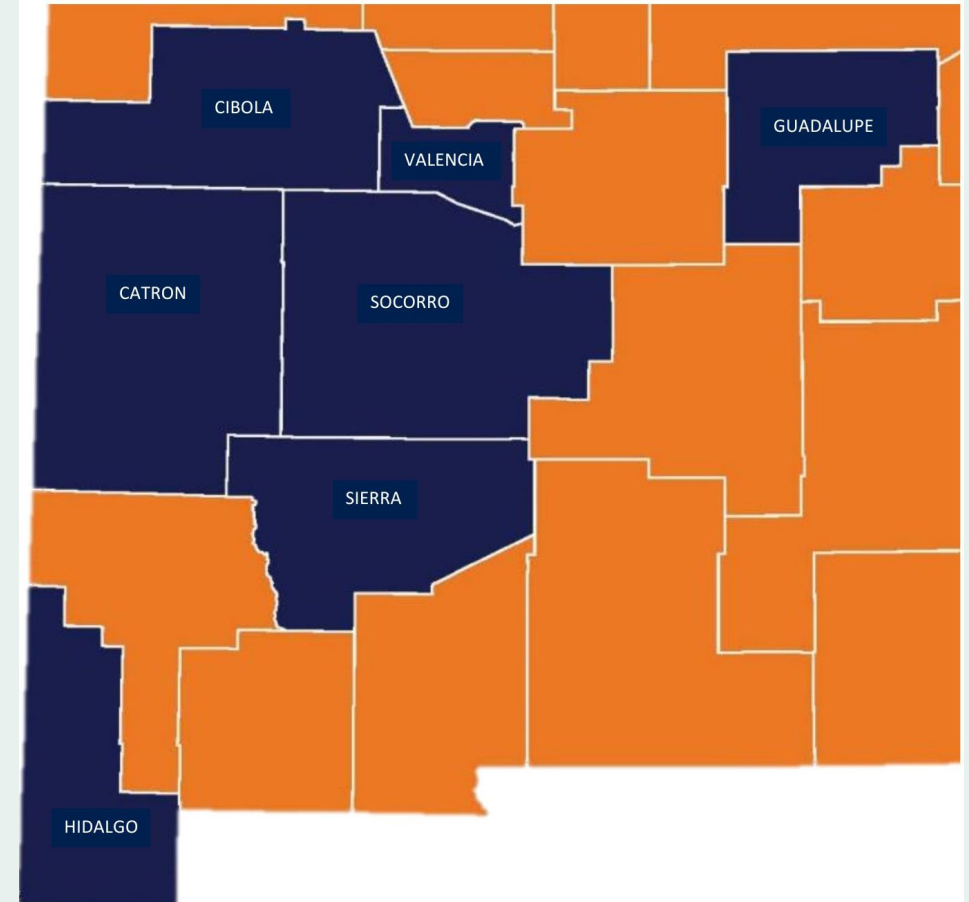
ORC PROGRESS REPORT: TREATMENT

Treatment Strategy #1: Support providers in expanding best practice opioid use disorder and addiction treatment in communities

NOVEMBER UPDATE

- ✓ **Recovery Team**
 - ✓ 2 Addiction Medicine Physicians
 - ✓ 3 BH Providers with expertise with addictions
 - ✓ 1 RN

- ✓ **Support Methods:** Training, Education, Technical Assistance, Licensing and Certification Guidance, Billing Opportunities & Sustainability Discussions, and Grant Writing



ORC PROGRESS REPORT: TREATMENT

Treatment Strategy #2: Design and implement a *Seven county navigation model*

- Identify an ***operation hub*** where Support Navigators link individuals to treatment, provide warm hand-offs to treatment settings, and provide SUD resources
- Develop local extensions to hub in each county, utilizing Peer Support and Community Health Workers
- Create a training curriculum for Support Navigators that promotes intercultural competence



Active: Early 2025

ORC PROGRESS REPORT: TREATMENT

Treatment Strategy #3: Explore Supportive Housing opportunities and non-medical transportation options

- Identify “Hub and Spoke” opportunities for recovery housing services
- Explore non-medical transportation options employing Peer Support & Community Support Workers
- Create a “Recovery Navigator” ride for individuals that is therapeutic for the consumer and financially sustainable for the provider



Active: Early 2025

ORC QUALITY INITIATIVES

- Enhance ORC communication through newsletter, greater attendance at health council meetings, and other community events
 - Solicit testimonials and feedback from providers to measure the impact of ORC Recovery Team efforts
 - Create ORC dashboard to highlight progress
 - Create ORC outcome metrics
 - Explore grants and other opioid funding for sustainability
 - Team up with state agencies (DOH and Epidemiology) to improve “collected data” for New Mexico to improve overall state opioid data reporting
-