

ADOBE (Addressing Disparities in Outcomes by Building Engagement) Program UNM Family & Community Medicine

Since its inception in 2017, the ADOBE Program at University of New Mexico (UNM) has aimed to **stabilize and support the highest-risk youth in New Mexico** through wrap-around services in a multi-generation model provided to both the clients and their primary caretakers. The model arose out the clear need to **address mental health and decrease health inequities in marginalized and at-risk adolescents**, specifically those who experienced incarceration in the juvenile justice system and those contending with many Adverse Childhood Experiences linked with chronic mental and medical concerns, as well as future victimization or perpetration of violence.

ADOBE promotes resilience, mental, and physical health through consistent engagement with community navigators, education specialists, behavioral health specialists, psychiatric providers, medical teams, and the UNM Law School Clinic. The ADOBE program is nationally recognized as an innovative model and participated in the Robert Wood Johnson funded national learning community Accelerating Child Health Transformation through the Center for Healthcare Strategies. Through a **comprehensive multi-disciplinary and multi-generational model, ADOBE creates strength based, responsive care that interlaces traditionally siloed services available to the entire family**. It has demonstrably interrupted the school-to-prison pipeline for enrolled youth and provided support for their family systems. Currently, the program cares for around 100 primary youth who typically bring an additional 2 or more family members into the ADOBE clinic. The program is growing and has expanded to serve youth and families who may benefit from more comprehensive wraparound services.

Components of the ADOBE program include:

Community Navigators ADOBE services are centered around navigator support for families, connecting them with community resources to meet social determinants of health, build trust, and help youth and families build on their own resilience.

Educational Specialists evaluate the academic status for children with frequent school interruption, advocate for children with special educational needs, help caretaker engagement with the school system, aid with clients interested in pursuing a GED or college credits.

Primary Medical Care Providers are available within a week or two of enrollment. Primary care encompasses general well checks, acute visits, contraception, and substance use treatment including medication for opioid use disorder (MOUD) with buprenorphine.

Behavioral health providers are available weekly for both in-person and telehealth appointments. Therapy is provided to those at the highest risk and in the most need. The clinic typically has access to a psychiatrist within a month of enrollment.

UNM Law Clinic assists with civil legal needs through the student run clinic, attending to the primary legal health of ADOBE families.

Past metrics of successful engagement included medical support for youth struggling with substance use, decreased recidivism (20% in ADOBE youth compared to 50% and 70% rates respectively for national and local averages), economic savings for Bernalillo County, over 1500 service hours per year to families (not including direct medical care), improved engagement in education programs (re-enrollment in school, GED programs, college credits).

Barriers/Challenges: Fully sustainable funding, reimbursement while working with other community wrap-around partners, clinical space, resources to expand ADOBE model state-wide.