

NM Legislative Health & Human Services Committee

Presentation

August 11, 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

- *Past Member*, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Center for Substance Abuse Treatment National Advisory Council, Rockville, Maryland, April 2016 to December 2021
- *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.

- Providing Substance Use Disorders and Co-Occurring Disorders Treatment for 44 years. Currently serving Taos, San Miguel, & Colfax Counties. Serving over 1,500 Clients annually.
- Nationally accredited through the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF)- Intensive Outpatient Treatment for Substance Use Disorders/Addictions
- Recovery-Friendly Taos County- Peer Support Program (Recovery Community Organization)

Taos County Demographics- Key Indicators

Categories	Taos County	NM	U.S.
Population	34,623	2,115,877	331,893,745
White alone not Hispanic/Latino	36%	35%	59.3%
African American/Black	1%	2.7%	13.6%
American Indian	7.9%	11.2%	1.3%
Hispanic/Latino	56%	50.1%	18.9%
Sex & Age			
Female	50%	50%	50.5%
Persons under 18	16.8%	22.4%	22.2%
Persons between 18 & 65	58%	60%	
Persons over 65	24%	16%	16.8%
Veterans			
Veterans 2016-2020	2,514	141,558	17,835,456
Unemployment			
Taos County	10.3%	8.1%	3.5%
Income & Poverty			
Median Household Income	\$41,973	\$51,243	\$64,994
Persons in Poverty	18.3%	19.4%	11.4%
Medicaid Enrollment	15,458 (47%)	889,973 (42%)	
Education			
High School Grad	91%	80.3%	88.5%
Bachelor Degree	32%	28%	33%

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, New Mexico 2021-22; Unemployment Statistics, By County & State Jan 2022;
Data Book: NM Human Services Department 2021; Kids Count 2021; American Community Survey Census Data 2021

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
Chronic Liver Disease Hospital Discharges	7th
Alcohol-Related Motor Vehicle Traffic Crash Death	8th
Drug Overdose Death	10th
Opioid Overdose Related Emergency Department Visits	2nd
Suicide Death	4th
Adult Heavy Drinking	2nd
Adult Drinking and Driving (past 30 days)	3rd
*Ranking per 33 in New Mexico Counties	

Youth & Families

(Reported by Taos Behavioral Health)

- Transportation
- Educational Support
- Psychiatric Services
- Mental Health- Day Programs
- Access to Higher Levels of Care

Youth & Families

Continuation...

- Higher Education
- Workforce Development
- Housing
- Technology

Taos County Opioid Epidemic

Background, Problem, and Proposed Solutions

- Naloxone
- Suboxone (Buprenorphine/Naloxone)
- Methadone
- Naltrexone
- Care Coordination/Data Sharing

Pandemic Crisis- COVID-19

- **Increase Mental Health Problems**
- **Increase Substance Abuse**
- **Increase Overdoses**
- **Increase Suicides**
- **Increase Unemployment**

SUD Gaps in the Continuum of Care

- Crisis Response System of Care (988#) Currently, Jail & Hospital
- Detox Center
- Crisis Stabilization Unit
- Residential Treatment
- Gender Specific Transitional Living
- Addressing Cannabis Use Disorder

Strengthen the Continuum of Care

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

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

Collaborate Regionally- Continuum of Care

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

Thank You

Questions and Answers

Contract Information

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