



INSIDE OUT  
919 NO. RIVERSIDE DRIVE STE. B1  
ESPANOLA, NM 87532  
PHONE: 505-367-3500  
FAX: 505-367-3503  
[www.recoveryinsideout.org](http://www.recoveryinsideout.org)

108 KIT CARSON RD., #C  
TAOS, NM 87571  
PHONE: 575-758-3392

Mobile Support Los Alamos  
PHONE: 505-257-8561

August 22, 2013

It is with great sadness that we offer you a small sampling of people who have died as a result of substance abuse in Rio Arriba County in the last 10 weeks.

We offer services without appointment and free of charge, serving people from four counties with addiction issues and their families on a part-time basis. We serve over 250 people per month and are very familiar with addiction and the fallout from it in our community. Our agency has been serving addicts for 8 years.

Recently, the federal government granted a million dollars per year to New Mexico to serve those with addiction issues. This money was divided into two \$500,000 per year grants for five years between Rio Arriba and McKinley counties. We advocated for services for addicts at HSD, and see the need in our community. Instead, this money is being expended in Rio Arriba county for a Pathways system complete with tablets for providers to track data on addicts. There is NO IMMEDIATE DETOX or TREATMENT available. The \$45,000 that we declined as an agency from this grant went to HOY Recovery supposedly for more detox beds. We opted out of the grant in protest regarding issues according to privacy and 42CFR, as well as these monies not going to treatment and detox. We could little afford to do so financially, however, it is an issue of integrity.

We are not asking you for monies for our agency. We are asking respectfully for accountability and documentation on how this grant is being used. In the meantime, we have called repeatedly for detox and rehab beds at HOY, only to be told that there is no detox. Most recently, 10 days ago, we were given a first detox bed for a client at HOY (after 4 months of promised beds which were not available) and when we got her there, our caseworker was sent to WalMart to wait in line and pick up her meds. This took our caseworker out of the office for the rest of the afternoon.

As an example of how hard it is to get people help, we've called HOY (no detox and a 5 week or longer wait for rehab), Santa Fe Recovery (a five week or more wait), Turquoise Lodge (no longer a rehab and a 5 week wait for detox), Sangre de Cristo House (no longer taking women-their budget was cut by 50% after a promise of multiple year funding from HSD), Turquoise Lodge for Adolescents is closing, hospitals won't take people who show up and asked to be detoxed. Taos Detox closed and HOY will not serve Taos County (this was told to several providers who have called, including ourselves).

As you can see by this sampling of obituaries, this is an emergency situation. One of these young women was a mother who came in with her 8 month old baby girl, desperately asking for help. We had nowhere to send her after calling every resource that we had. She is dead now. This is a travesty and unconscionable. We regularly send people who are crying for help back onto the streets because there is no detox or rehab when they are asking for it. It is with a heavy heart that we report this to you. Where is the accountability and assistance to those who are indigent and desperately seeking help?

***"WE BELIEVE THAT ALL LIVES HAVE MEANING, AND OFFER PEER SUPPORT THROUGH OUR OWN EXPERIENCES TO INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES REACHING TOWARD RECOVERY. AS A COMMUNITY WE CAN CREATE CHANGE..."***

We work in collaboration with Taos Public Defender social worker Jenni Parks and Tammy Jaramillo, Taos County Indigent Manager, as we serve those in jail on a weekly basis. We are all pulling as much as we can to collaborate and find services for those who are ordered by the courts to go to treatment. There are lines miles long for the few places that are open. A 29 year old young man just died in the TCADC waiting for a bed at HOY for many weeks.

People are DYING as a result of no detox and treatment. There is a particular batch of heroin that is on the streets that is causing overdose on a regular basis. People are scared and coming in asking for detox and treatment, however, we are regularly having to tell them that the only answer is to get on a huge waiting list. The disappointment and resignation in their eyes is devastating. We cannot help people without services available.

We were told by an employee of ONE OF TWO mortuaries in Espanola that over the last month they have served families of 22 people who died as a result of substance abuse. 15 of these were due to heroin overdose. Some families won't even publish an obituary due to stigma. By the time these numbers reach the data base, it will be quite some time before these facts come to public knowledge.

In the meantime, monies meant for addiction treatment are being spent on data tracking systems. Beds that were promised are not there. People are dying. Please help our communities.

Thank you for your consideration regarding this emergency issue.

The Staff of Inside Out, Kathy Sutherland-Bruaw, MA., Founder/Executive Director

*Kathy Sutherland-Bruaw*

***"WE BELIEVE THAT ALL LIVES HAVE MEANING, AND OFFER PEER SUPPORT THROUGH OUR OWN EXPERIENCES TO INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES REACHING TOWARD RECOVERY. AS A COMMUNITY WE CAN CREATE CHANGE..."***