

RIO ARRIBA HEALTH AND HUMAN
SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Improving Care in Rio Arriba



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Target Populations

Rio Arriba proposes to improve the functioning of its healthcare system by targeting two difficult-to-serve populations that might otherwise not receive timely preventive care: seniors and individuals suffering from brain disorders such as mental illness and Substance Use Disorders.

Con Alma Foundation and the US Alzheimer's Association project that New Mexico will increase its percentage of senior population by 30-50% from 2010 to 2025. Con Alma also projects Rio Arriba moving from 39th in NM for percentage of elderly residents to 4th by 2030. It is imperative that Rio Arriba begin preparing for the so-called "silver tsunami" before it becomes a crisis.

Rio Arriba currently serves approximately 12,304 senior citizens through Congregate or Home-Bound meal services at nine centers. Currently, no Medicaid-funded Adult Day Care exists north of Santa Fe, and few long-term options are available in Rio Arriba. Because hospitals are penalized for high 30-day readmission rates for Medicare beneficiaries, it is imperative that Rio Arriba work closely with our medical providers to make preventive services such as Adult Day Care, Personal Care Services, immunizations and basic well care available in Rio Arriba.

Rio Arriba County also suffers from the highest heroin overdose death rates in the US. The Rio Arriba rate of 16.1 per 100,000 is ten times higher than the national rate, and five times greater than the rate of 2.7, which the CDC has deemed severe. Currently, many individuals suffering from addiction and mental illness cycle through the Rio Arriba County Detention Center, maximizing cost while minimizing health outcomes. Incarceration also drives up rates of Hepatitis C, as it is easily spread in the jail environment. While much has been done to address substance abuse in Rio Arriba, it has not been done on a large enough scale, and specific interventions targeting the OD death rate have not been implemented. A complete solution will involve reorganizing Rio Arriba's health care system to insure that those at highest risk of overdose (namely, newly released jail inmates) receive proper intervention and care. Jail diversion and intensive case management of these two high-risk populations is critical.

Why Expand the Rio Arriba Health Commons?

Rio Arriba seeks to improve health outcomes, and more efficiently target scarce resources by integrating care for seniors and the mentally ill into our health care system.

Improved services for seniors and for released jail inmates are dependent upon streamlining the process of Medicaid enrollment for these populations. Rio Arriba is proposing a relocation of the Española Income Support Division (ISD) office to a new building at the Health Commons where it will be co-located with expanded intensive case management for substance abuse treatment, medically-assisted substance abuse treatment, TANF-specific outpatient treatment, a medical Adult Day Care, and Personal Care Services for disabled and elderly individuals.

Relocation of the Española Public Health Office of the Department of Health from the current building to the new building will allow expansion of existing services including OD prevention education, needle exchange, Narcan distribution and WIC, and will free up space in the existing building for dental bays.

The relocation and physical integration of ISD into the system of care will be accompanied by a transition to a multi-agency team approach to case management.

Multi-agency case management teams will:

- assist families to access a full range of services (including the transitions from one service to the next);
- conduct overdose prevention education (in conjunction with the NM DOH) when necessary;
- assist families with broad safety net issues;
- assist families and ISD to complete long-form Medicaid applications, tracking enrollment success or failure, and timely MCO compliance with required assessments and services.

Rio Arriba County will act as a bridge between families on the one hand, and ISD and providers on the other, scheduling team case management staffings, keeping ISD informed of MCO compliance with individual clients, and tracking the production of individual health outcomes for clients.

In addition, expansion of the health commons will enable integration of dental care by locating dental services and dental bays at the existing Medical Clinic.

Because the agencies currently occupying the Rio Arriba Health Commons have run out of space, it is not possible to expand to meet the increase in demand caused by the success of Centennial Care, let alone to reorganize in the manner proposed.

Projected Measurable Benefits

- Improved Medicaid enrollment for seniors and released inmates
- Fewer overdoses and overdose deaths among released inmates
- Reduced jail recidivism
- 30 day hospital readmission rates for seniors will remain low despite increased population
- Increased access to Adult Day Care and PCS for Rio Arriba residents
- Reduction in duplication of services
- Reduced ER recidivism
- Increased options for substance abuse treatment
- Increased access to dental care
- Compliance with federal requirements for Community Centered Health Home and Patient Centered Medical Home
- Diversification and expansion of revenue sources for senior programming
- Development of replicable best practices for case management
- Development of replicable county health care delivery model
- MCO compliance with required assessments and services will be tracked

Partners

- Rio Arriba Health and Human Services Department
- Rio Arriba Senior Programs
- RACSTOP
- NM Department of Health
- NM ISD
- El Centro Family Health
- Siete del Norte
- SL Start
- Rio Arriba Community Health Council