

Behavioral Health Crisis Center - Fact Sheet



OVERVIEW

- This groundbreaking project is part of a comprehensive approach by Bernalillo County and UNM Hospital to address behavioral health needs within the community.

ADDRESSING COMMUNITY NEEDS

- The Behavioral Health Crisis Center will address critical gaps in behavioral health services by providing comprehensive crisis triage and stabilization services with a physical connection to existing resources co-located on the University Psychiatric Center campus.
- Addresses the problem of strained emergency rooms with patients needing behavioral health services.
- Provides meaningful access to stabilization services for individuals not meeting clinical requirements for acute inpatient care.
- Modeled after successful crisis triage stabilization centers in Tucson and San Antonio offering a more clinically appropriate and cost-effective solution.

INVESTMENT

- Bernalillo County has committed \$20 million from the behavioral health gross receipts tax to fund the development of the Crisis Center.
- UNMH is matching this contribution with an additional \$20 million for the design and construction of the facility, representing a significant investment in the region's behavioral health infrastructure.
- Operation of the new facility will be funded in the same manner as other UNM Hospital operations, with revenue streams including Medicaid, Medicare, other insurance. Patients will have access to financial assistance under the UNM Care program.

BERNCO BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CONTEXT

- Bernalillo County has been actively working on improving behavioral health services, recognizing the importance of addressing mental health conditions and substance use disorders.
- Programs and initiatives under Bernalillo County's Behavioral Health Division include the Observation & Assessment Unit, detoxification from alcohol and substance use, the Residential Supportive Aftercare Program, the Addiction Treatment Program, the Crisis Stabilization Unit, the peer living room, outpatient clinic, and Young Adult Program.
- These initiatives, which are supported through extensive collaboration with UNM Hospital, are designed to offer evidence-based interventions and support to individuals struggling with mental health and substance use issues.

FACILITY DETAILS

- The Behavioral Health Crisis Center will encompass a 48,699 square-foot facility with a 16 bed crisis triage area, an observation area for 10 patients, group therapy rooms, community day room and dining area, support services areas, offices, law enforcement areas and other spaces appropriate to creating a therapeutic milieu (a supportive, healing and growth oriented environment where individuals can work on their mental health challenges, learn new coping skills, and make progress toward recovery).
- The center will sit adjacent to the current UNM Psychiatric Center at 2400 Marble Ave. NE.
- Programs: Crisis Triage, peer living room, and UNM Psychiatric Emergency Services

Questions? Contact:

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SERVICES

1) Crisis Triage

- Target population includes adults 18+ with a mental health diagnosis who do not meet the criteria for psychiatric acute inpatient admission but need continued stabilization supports, or those who are stepping down from psychiatric acute inpatient care and need transitional support services in order to move to a lower level of care.
- The CTC will provide residential crisis stabilization services for up to 16 individuals for a maximum of 14 days, adhering to state and federal regulations.
- Includes emergency behavioral health triage and evaluation and services to manage individuals at high risk of suicide or intentional self-harm.
- Programs include group therapy, counseling, care coordination and case management services along with referral capacity to other community providers based on patient needs.
- A dedicated drop-off area for law enforcement, corrections and first responders within the community.

2) Peer Living Room

- The peer living room model offers low-acuity walk-in or referral services in a welcoming environment accessed by a separate public entrance and lobby.
- This program provides opportunities for individuals in need to access peer support in a non-threatening, non-clinical setting with co-located access to additional care if appropriate.

3) UNM Psychiatric Emergency Services (PES)

- UNMH Psychiatric Emergency Services will expand its existing program to the new facility to better serve patients.
- This expansion will provide a defined area for law enforcement to drop off patients.

TIMELINE

- December 2018 - The Bernalillo County Commission approved a one-time capital investment for a crisis triage center on The University of New Mexico campus for up to \$20 million to be appropriated at a future date.
- December 2019 - BernCo launches Crisis Stabilization unit at CARE Campus providing 24-hour residential stabilization services for individuals with substance use disorders, mental illness, or co-occurring disorders and medical and behavioral health services including medication management. The unit is licensed as a Crisis Triage Center in accordance with New Mexico Department of Health regulations.
- January 2020 - MOU executed with UNMH for a Crisis Triage Center, \$20 million from Bernalillo County - \$20 million from UNMH.
- October 2020 - Site identified for new CTC on the UNM campus. Site co-located with existing and future behavioral health services in order to provide a “no-wrong-door” approach for all clients needing help.
- Construction of the facility commenced in July 2022.
- A groundbreaking celebration was held on September 26, 2022.
- A ribbon cutting event was held June 14, 2024.
- The Behavioral Health Crisis Center is expected to open its doors to the community in June 2024. The exact date is 6/25/2024.

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KEY TAKEAWAYS

- 1. Comprehensive Behavioral Health Initiatives:** The opening of the Behavioral Health Crisis Center is a major milestone in the evolution of Bernalillo County and UNM Hospital efforts to address behavioral health challenges, providing a continuum of care.
- 2. Substantial Investment:** The project is funded by a \$40 million commitment from Bernalillo County and UNMH, signifying their dedication to improving behavioral health services.
- 3. Targeted Support:** The center will provide vital support to adults with severe mental health and co-occurring diagnoses, filling a critical gap in care.
- 4. Streamlined Access:** Co-locating services aims to simplify access to comprehensive behavioral health care through a “no-wrong door” approach.
- 5. Community-Wide Benefits:** The opening of the Behavioral Health Crisis Center is expected to yield improved health, social well-being, and economic efficiency, benefiting the community long term.