



## State and Partner Report 2006\*

**State:** New Mexico

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### **Projects/Issues Addressed This Year:**

- 1) The intranet between all Public Health Offices and Santa Fe was added to the Department of Health (DOH) intranet. This service allows all 52 health offices and the Barbara Richardson Mobile Van to link to the Director's Office and Programs in Santa Fe. Breaking news, protocols (eliminating huge notebooks and piles of paper in every office), and lists of resources and supplies are available 24/7.
- 2) The Barbara Richardson Mobile Van is a product of the division's partnership with Blue Cross/Blue Shield. The van visits rural sites without health offices, community gatherings, public schools, and a myriad of other public sites to offer dental and public health services such as immunizations, family planning, and health screenings.
- 3) The position of chief nurse is now one year old. I have been busier than I could ever have imagined and loved/loving every minute of it. I have been fortunate to have an extremely educated and motivated team that assures I am always up-to-date on regional and local issues. My accomplishments include the re-organization and improved efforts of a number of standing committees: credential verification, safety, clinical records, information management, health office data collection, and quality improvement.

### **Projects/Issues Pending:**

The biggest and most exciting pending project is Nurse Advice Line (NAL) NM. This effort is an example of a successful public/private partnership. A community group of primary care clinics, MCOs, UNM/School of Medicine, DOH, and other social service agencies started meeting over 5 years ago and the result is NAL. The NAL will have 5 essential functions once it "Goes Live" on June 1:

1. Primary care dispatch (appointment scheduling for insured clients in their medical home, and uninsured to a primary care center with sliding scale).
2. Linkage to the statewide pharmacy and medical supply database.
3. Linkage to the statewide Resource Directory that list services by county.
4. Linkages to statewide and local crisis lines.
5. Sentinel Surveillance Site for local and regional epi surveillance and emergency preparedness.

### **Issues and Special Concerns for Public Health Nursing:**

The major issue and concern for every part of NM and probably every state, is emergency preparedness. Conferences and planning sessions are in full swing to mobilize and organize state resources to assure best practices.

Clinical Staffing is an ongoing concern especially considering the nursing shortage.

Financial resources are extremely limited as NM is one of the poorest states in the country and is designated as frontier.



\*Reports must be sent electronically to Justina Novak ([justina.novak@doh.wa.gov](mailto:justina.novak@doh.wa.gov)) by April 15, 2006 in order to be included in packets. If your form is not received by then, you need to bring 50 copies of your report to the meeting.