1. **Pre-Meeting Discussion of FY07 Contract Issues – Pam Hyde, Leslie Tremaine, Paul Ritzma, et al.**

Secretary Hyde called the pre-meeting discussion on the FY 07 ValueOptions (VO) Contract to order at approximately 11:05 a.m. and welcomed those present. She noted this was an open session and that a quorum was present.

**Attendees**

- Sec. Pam Hyde, HSD
- Deputy Sec. Daniel Sandoval, CYFD
- Deputy Sec. Erma Sedillo, NMCD
- Director Pat Putnam, DDPC
- Deputy Sec. Catherine Cross Maple, PED
- Sec. Deborah Armstrong, ALTSD
- Deputy Sec. Michelle Brown-Yazzie, IAD
- Director Gary Beene, DVR
- Director Mary Keener Beresford, GCD
- Richard Pickering, HED
- Director Karen Meador, DOH
- Sec. Michelle Lujan Grisham, DOH
- John Block III, GCD
- Ricardo Campos, DOT
- Miguel Gomez, DOL
- Lionel Holguin, MFA
- Judith Reed, Public Defender’s Office
- Rick Martinez, DFA
- Director Patricio Larragoite, HPC
- Len Malry, OWTD

Secretary Hyde reminded members that the contract discussion today was a dialogue only; no final decisions would be made. The contract is on the web site for public comment through March 13, and must go to the federal government (CMS) by April 1, 2006, for a 90-day review. Only changes required by CMS will be incorporated after the review, with a sign-off date projected for sometime in June.

Secretary Hyde reiterated that if members have language changes they wish to incorporate, they must submit these proposed changes no later than 5:00 p.m. on March 3, 2006. She reported that contract negotiations with VO would take place March 6 through March 17.

She also reminded members to think of the contract as a single system of care, which includes all programs in all departments. She referred to a handout entitled “Draft 2007 SE Contract Issues,” and asked members which areas they most wanted to discuss, since time constraints would preclude discussion of all items.

Secretary Hyde asked if members felt strongly that the ad hoc agencies (Public Defender’s Office, Higher Education Department, Office of Workforce Training & Development, and the Children’s Cabinet) should sign the contract. Discussion was held around this issue, including legal liability. Office of General Counsel (OGC) attorney Paul Ritzma noted two options: (1) have representatives of these agencies sign, but include language that limits their liability; or (2)
don’t have the representatives sign, but maintain a record of the vote that the agencies agree with the contract. There was consensus that the ad hoc agencies be at least ex officio members.

Discussion was also held on the following issues: all information going through the Contract Manager; the role of the Collaborative; streamlining VO reports; and staffing issues.

Director Putnam provided a handout with his proposed changes to the contract. These changes were discussed, and Director Putnam will work with Deborah Fickling on language modifications. Also discussed were performance measures as delineated on page 65 of the contract and a handout entitled “Performance and Accountability Contract.” Director Putnam stated that the DDMI population must be included in the performance measures in order for the data to be useful in serving this population.

Deputy Sec. Brown-Yazzie asked about services for the Native American population. Secretary Hyde referred her to page 20 in the draft contract and advised to provide suggested language changes by March 3. She also suggested that Deputy Sec. Brown-Yazzie discuss her concerns about youth in tribal custody versus state custody with Deputy Sec. Daniel Sandoval.

Regarding uniformity of rates, Sec. Hyde directed the Steering Group to move this issue forward and report to the Collaborative at the March 30 meeting.

Finally, the definition of “Consumer and Family” was discussed. Dr. Tremaine indicated there was a period for public comment, and a synthesis of the comments would be provided at the March 30 meeting. She noted there is a distinction between the definition for the contract, and the one for Local Collaboratives and the public. Secretary Hyde reported that language about advanced directives had been added to the contract.

After a 15-minute break, Secretary Hyde called the regular Collaborative meeting to order at approximately 1:05 p.m. She handed out the newsletter “Behavioral Health Transformer” and called attention to the schedule of meetings on page 7. She also reported that there will be a day-long public meeting this summer to discuss the issues raised at the legislative session.

2. Approval of Minutes

Director Karen Meador moved to approve the minutes from the December 15, 2005, meeting. Director Pat Putnam seconded, and the motion was approved.

3. Native American Local Collaboratives – Jack Callaghan, Pat Putnam and Region 6 LC Representatives

Jack Callaghan recognized Director Putnam as the representative of the Region and commented that there had been much interagency work conducted on this program. He introduced Susy Ashcroft, member of the BHPC, who introduced Herman Largo, Department of Navajo Nation Behavioral Health Services. Mr. Largo indicated that the goals of the Department were to provide the best services possible; expand services to those neglected; decrease duplication of
services; and develop partnerships. Mr. Largo asked one of his colleagues to say a prayer in both Navajo and English.

Ms. Ashcroft then introduced Dr. Carolyn Morris, a clinical psychologist, who conducted a joint PowerPoint presentation with Ms. Ashcroft. They explained that the Navajo people will not label themselves as consumers, schizophrenics, etc. That kind of labeling goes against tradition. The culture does not recognize mental illness. Instead, people strive for balance and harmony with the Creator, the land and with other beings. Therefore, education must be provided about the concept of “consumer” without labeling. The concept of “family member” is a very complex one in the culture as well.

Dr. Morris explained that one of the barriers to assistance is learned helplessness due to years of oppression, and that relapse is often due to poverty and to the long distances people must travel for services. However, the word is getting out through the Navajo DBHS, community members, CAT team, etc. Assistance is needed in development of a community needs assessment consistent with the original vision of the state, and in funding for two coordinators for the Navajo Local Collaborative. One of the still-unresolved big issues is the question of licensing and reimbursement for traditional services.

Mr. Callaghan next introduced Carson Craig, Navajo DBHS, and Harrison Yellowman, Office of Consumer Affairs, with translation assistance by Edward Begay. They stated they came here today with hope, goodwill and the desire to be heard and understood. They are asking for the Secretaries’ assistance to live in harmony again. It was pointed out that children are losing their native language; less than 6% of Navajo youth are bi-lingual.

A youth representative, Natalie Benally, spoke about problems facing youth of the Navajo Nation, including alcoholism, drugs, teen pregnancy, and depression. She introduced student council representatives who sponsor activities to encourage peers to refrain from drug use, etc. She stated that youth need more counseling services, and hoped the Collaborative could help.

Sec. Grisham praised Ms. Benalie for her presentation, and Deputy Sec. Brown-Yazzie commented that she was proud of each and every one of the individuals.

Sec. Cross Maple asked how the youth in public schools and BIA schools were being engaged in the process. Ms. Ashcroft responded that members of the Local Collaborative were part of the schools, and that prevention specialists were helping to educate youth and establish mental health clinics in schools.

There was discussion about billable service codes being developed for Traditional treatment methods as well as Western ones. Sec. Hyde noted there is a section in the contract (to be further developed) that will address this issue.

Deputy Sec. Brown-Yazzie motioned that the Collaborative accept the Navajo Nation’s Letter of Readiness. Director Beene seconded, and the motioned was approved.
Jack Callaghan introduced Gus Abeita from the Region 6 Local Collaborative. Mr. Abeita welcomed Amadeo Shije, Chairman of the All Indian Pueblo Council, who stated that the Council wholeheartedly supports this effort. Margaret Garcia, Division Director for the Zuni tribe, spoke about the isolation of many of her people and noted that there is one provider for over 11,000 people. Prevention and early intervention are crucial. She implored that the issue of licensure be resolved; specifically, that Certified Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors (CADACs) be recognized, not only LADACs.

Mr. Abeita gave a PowerPoint presentation, which delineated, among other things, the importance in the Native American culture of a relational world view as exemplified by a “web system” of roles and interactions among people. Because of this system of connectedness, healing practices are defined in a more familial way and must include the whole family system.

Mr. Abeita introduced Mrs. Jackson, who gave testimony about how different services and groups, including Parents of Behaviorally Different Children, helped her with her own son. She stated that more RTCs, counseling services, services for abused women, etc. are needed in their communities.

Sec. Hyde asked how the community leaders are making sure people who are experiencing imbalance are actively engaged. Mr. Abeita responded that when people seek help, they become healers themselves. Therefore, it is imperative to invite people in the community who have sought help, like Mrs. Jackson, to provide information and assistance. The boundary between healer and help seeker is not as clearly delineated in their culture. Sec. Hyde stated there must be an ongoing dialogue and a way to include without differentiating and stigmatizing.

Director Putnam noted how different these presentations have been from the others we’ve seen. There may not be one definition that works for everyone. Sec. Grisham indicated that Region 6 has the toughest job, and that the use of community meetings and elders as vehicles to obtain more input and disseminate even more information is crucial.

Deputy Sec. Brown-Yazzie motioned that the Collaborative accept the Letter of Readiness of the Region 6 Local Collaborative. Secretary Armstrong seconded, and the motion was approved.


Director Meador led a discussion on Phase I and Phase II of the Reinvestment Report as outlined in a handout presented to the members. There was a recommendation to authorize VO to proceed with the package of 39 projects. Sec. Grisham clarified that it is the process that was being voted on, not specific dollar amounts for each project.

Deputy Sec. Sedillo asked if the money must be spent this fiscal year. Pam Galbraith, CEO of VO, answered that it does not need to be spent, but it must be allocated. It is an 06 encumbrance issue. The $20,000 earmarked to co-sponsor an upcoming documentary focusing on issues such as substance abuse, depression and body image as experienced by New Mexico girls is an urgent matter, however, and needs to be acted upon.
Deputy Sec. Sedillo asked if a list of the projects was available. Matt Onstott provided members with the list. Director Beresford expressed concern whether community input had been obtained.

Secretary Hyde motioned to accept the criteria for the $3.4 million funding, and the criteria for an additional $250,000 through a “Special Reinvestment Funds” application process. The motion was seconded by Sec. Armstrong and was approved.

5. **Public Input**

Catherine Hebenstreit, NAMI / Spirit Club SF. Ms. Hebenstreit identified herself as the mother of an individual who attends the Spirit Club. She is very concerned that changes may be made to services without consulting consumers. She stated that PMS wants to move the Spirit Club into the facility where the Guidance Center is housed and that, instead of a club house, the program would become a drop-in center, modeled after a Texas mental health program. Ms. Hebenstreit was concerned that a drop-in center model would be funded, but a club house would not. Sec. Grisham commented that funding decisions will be based on Local Collaborative input and will be evidence-based. Pamela Galbraith and Dr. Chris Carson from VO noted that the provider was indeed offered funding for the current club house program. They will discuss this issue further with Ms. Hebenstreit.

Peter Cubra. Mr. Cubra expressed four main concerns: (1) he does not see anything in the VO contract that allocates funding for developmental disabilities, especially Autism Spectrum Disorders; (2) he believes it is clear our system is vastly under-funded and that it is imperative that more money be allocated to behavioral health services; (3) he is thankful Kendra’s Law did not pass, but requests that instead of forcing people into treatment, more services such as case management be provided to individuals; (4) no one in his Local Collaborative knows what will be spent in his community.

Gilberto Romero. Mr. Romero expressed concern that forums allowing people to speak are few and far between. He noted that the final decision on the contract will be made on March 30; he feels that does not give time for the public to provide input. He stated he is concerned about youth suicide, and noted that those aged 20-25 are especially at risk. He asked that we abandon the consumer model and, instead, develop on a strength-based model. He recommended utilizing “informed gatekeepers” such as beauticians, barbers and others to get the word out about behavioral health needs and services.

6. **Updates from Collaborative Coordinator – Leslie Tremaine, Matt Onstott**

Deputy Director Matt Onstott reviewed the Oversight Team’s (OT) findings. He highlighted some of the positive aspects regarding VO contract performance and noted some items of concern. Collaborative members were provided with a summary of the OT activities and findings.
Dr. Tremaine noted that Local Collaborative teams will be meeting on March 10. Now that all 15 Local Collaboratives have been recognized, roles, needs and relationships can be clarified. Work groups (Oversight, Capacity, etc.) are also getting more integrated. Director Beene stated we need to empower the Local Collaboratives. The March 10 meeting will be an opportunity to do that.

7. **FY 2007 Draft Contract with ValueOptions – Pam Hyde, Leslie Tremaine, Paul Ritzma**

Director Putnam again expressed concern about some of the language in the contract. He also stated that a performance indicator on disabilities needs to be added. Secretary Hyde reiterated Deborah Fickling as the go-to person for proposed language changes.

Secretary Hyde outlined the contract negotiation process. Matt Onstott will coordinate the negotiation team. There will be both core groups (Departments such as Corrections, Aging & Long Term Services, etc.) with primary funding, as well as resource groups. The first week of negotiations will focus on non-fiscal issues; the second on financial issues, as well as non-financial concerns carried over from the first week. Space has been allocated for the full two weeks. Secretary Hyde reminded everyone that this is a collaborative effort and that Departments other than HSD and CYFD should be involved in the process. OGC’s Paul Ritzma will be the point person for legal issues. Dr. Tremaine recommended that the schedule, topics of discussion, etc. be communicated to Collaborative members and VO staff.

8. **FY 2007 Budget and Legislative Outcomes That Impact Behavioral Health**

Secretary Hyde noted that, due to the late hour, discussion on this topic will be postponed until the March 30 meeting.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 5:15 p.m.

9. **Next BH Collaborative Meetings/Primary Topics**

    **March 30, 2006 1:00 – 5:00 p.m., State Capitol, Room 322, Santa Fe**

    - BHPC Policy Discussion, including definition of Consumer and Family (Steve Johnson/Carol Luna Anderson/Debbie Armstrong)
    - FY 2007 ValueOptions Contract Final Decision (Paul Ritzma, Leslie Tremaine)

    **May 1, 2006, 1 – 5 p.m. or 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., depending on when Cabinet is scheduled. State Capitol, Room 322, Santa Fe**

    - School BH Standards, School Coordination & Performance Issues (Catherine Cross Maple/Pat Putnam/Steve Adelsheim/Claire Dudley)
    - Report from MacArtur Foundation Network on Mental Health Policy Research Re Evaluation of Local Collaboratives Process (Kim Isett and Jeanne Miranda)