THE CHILDREN’S SUB COMMITTEE
INFANT MENTAL HEALTH WORK GROUP
Request for New Mexico Behavioral Health Planning Council (BHPC) Endorsement

REQUEST
The Infant Mental Health work group, will support the Children’s Subcommittee in advising issues of infant and early childhood (birth to three) behavioral health and System of Care Implementation with service systems interfacing with pregnant women, infants/young children and their families. The Infant Mental Health work group requests formal BHPC endorsement as a group with infant mental health expertise advising the Children’s Subcommittee on matters of infant and early childhood behavioral health, including strengths and gaps in the system of care, barriers to access, and policy recommendations.

Strengths
The Infant Mental Health work group possesses strength in its diverse and multi-systemic membership, infant mental health specialization, and successful implementation of a number of systems-development activities. The co-facilitators and work group members recognize the importance of supporting existing initiatives, including the implementation of Systems of Care. A number of work group members are on the Board of Directors or members of the New Mexico Association for Infant Mental Health, which is implementing a competency-based professional endorsement system in collaboration with 7 other states to support and recognize a competent infant mental health workforce. These members have also participated in two series of regional Early Childhood Mental Health System of care Summits (2006 & 2008) with the intention of incorporating the findings regarding the community- and regional-level strengths and needs into the goals of the infant mental health work group.

Weaknesses
This work group is just being formed and is requesting to be formally recognized by the behavioral health system in New Mexico as we get started. Such endorsement is a critical step in ensuring the successful integration of infant behavioral health as an essential component of New Mexico’s Behavioral Health System of Care.

Strategic Steps
The co-facilitators will present this request to the BHPC Executive Committee on DATE. The request for endorsement as a standing Infant Mental health Work Group was presented to the Children’s Subcommittee on December 16, 2008. Once recognized, the IMH Work Group will develop a proposed work plan, provide the plan to the Children’s Sub-Committee and request feedback.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. Please don’t hesitate to contact:

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