RESOLUTION OF THE NATIVE AMERICAN SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PLANNING COUNCIL

WHEREAS, Certified Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors (“CADACs”) and Licensed Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors (“LADACs”) provide much needed alcohol and substance abuse counseling in rural and tribal communities.

WHEREAS, tribal and rural communities have a larger proportion of CADACs as service providers in their communities, yet only LADACs are able to bill for substance abuse counseling services under Medicaid in New Mexico.

WHEREAS, the 2007 House Bill 731, Counseling and Therapy Licensure Requirements, passed unanimously through the State Legislature to allow experienced and qualified CADAC’s to be grandfathered, for a specified time period, into the state system as LADACs in order to increase access to substance abuse counseling services through Medicaid in tribal and rural communities.

WHEREAS, the grandfathering period ends July 1, 2010.

WHEREAS, fewer than expected CADACs and other practitioners from rural and tribal communities have taken advantage of the grandfathering clause within the time period specified in statute due to limitations in completing the education and clinical supervision requirements needed to be grandfathered.

WHEREAS, tribal and rural communities still struggle to access behavioral health services, and as of September 2009, fewer than twenty-five successful applicants have been grandfathered to LADACs through this system.

WHEREAS, the New Mexico Credentialing Board for Behavioral Health Professionals (“NMCBBHP”), as of September 2009, has over forty pending applications and needs additional time to provide necessary information sessions and test preparatory training. Moreover, the NMCBBHP and other credentialing organizations need additional time and resources to provide adequate outreach to rural and frontier areas of New Mexico.

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Native American Subcommittee of the New Mexico Behavioral Health Planning Council supports the extension through legislation of the grandfathering period as specified in NMSA 61-9A.14.3 for an additional two years to allow more time for CADACs and other eligible applicants interested in becoming LADACs to take advantage of the grandfathering process.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Native American Subcommittee urges the New Mexico Behavioral Health Planning Council to pass a similar resolution in support of the extension of the grandfathering period for CADACs to LADACs.

Passed 23 to 2 by the Subcommittee on September, 29, 2009.