PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD
Consumer and Family Member definitions for use in Local Collaboratives

The Interagency Behavioral Health Purchasing Collaborative (Collaborative) voted on December 15, 2005, to send out for public comment the definitions for “consumer” and “family member” for a limited purpose and applicability; that is determining membership on the Local Collaboratives throughout the state. These definitions were discussed and voted on by the Behavioral Health Planning Council; discussed by the Consumer-Family Workgroup of the Local Collaborative Cross-Agency Team; and put forth for Collaborative consideration by the Policy and Planning Cross-Agency Team.

The definitions are as follows:

**CONSUMER:** “A consumer is an individual who self-identifies as a current or past recipient of behavioral health services with an emphasis on those who receive publicly funded behavioral health services; or an individual in recovery from mental health or substance abuse issues.”

**FAMILY MEMBER:** “A family member is an individual who acts as a support person to a consumer, specifically parents, spouses, significant others or other first-degree relatives, also individuals who are the caregivers or guardians. Family members of consumers include children and adolescents as well as adults.”

You are invited to submit comments regarding these definitions. Please send all comments to Karan Northfield, NM HSD/MAD, PO Box 2348, Santa Fe NM 87504-2348 (mail), karan.northfield@state.nm.us (e-mail), 505-827-3185 (fax)

Deadline for receipt of all comments is **January 31, 2006, at 5 p.m.**