Resolution of the Child and Adolescent Subcommittee of the New Mexico Behavioral Health Planning Council

Whereas, the Maternal Depression Working Group has the goal of promoting mental health and well-being, and preventing mental health crises, for all New Mexican mothers, infants and families, and;

Whereas, the Maternal Depression Working Group was formed to respond to the high prevalence of maternal depression in New Mexico, gaps in access to timely care for low income women including those on Medicaid, and a need for a system to meet unique needs of maternal mental health and;

Whereas, the Maternal Depression Working Group, with multi-disciplinary members and leadership from the Department of Health and Governor’s Women’s Health Office, has members from public and private sector providers, support programs, state and local agencies, university faculty, and;

Whereas, literature review shows maternal depression responds well to treatment, having greater success when identified and treated early in its course, and with links to supportive programs. When untreated, research indicates untoward outcomes for mother, infant, and family; and;

Whereas, Medicaid and the Statewide Entity (Optum Health) need to take steps to implement the following measures to close gaps for low income women including those on Medicaid 1) extend access to mental health evaluation and care to 12 months after delivery; 2) promote prenatal and postpartum mental health screening, including appropriate billing codes for such screening; 3) promote training for mental health providers in screening, treatment and linkage to community systems of care; 4) assure client access to information about perinatal depression symptoms and how to get help; 5) link with community programs that avert undiagnosed or untreated depression; and 6) use client data systems of Medicaid and Optum Health to monitor the levels of use of such care, and;

Whereas, in a time of budget shortfall, it is understood that successful progress will take time, and;

Whereas the members of the Maternal Depression Working Group stand ready to assist the steps above including training, technical assistance, information for the public, research, grant writing, and networking community systems of supportive care, and;

Therefore let it be resolved, that on this day, (insert date), the Child and Adolescent sub-committee of the New Mexico Behavioral Planning Health Council (BHPC) endorses the work of the Maternal Depression Working Group and encourages the New Mexico BHPC to also give it’s endorsement so that this work can continue to make a difference; and

Therefore let it be further resolved, that the Child and Adolescent sub-committee of the New Mexico BHPC and the New Mexico BHPC advocate and encourage the implementation of the recommendations contained within the Maternal Depression Working Group’s presentation of October 20, 2009 and proposal to the sub-committee.

_________Adopt ___________Do not adopt ___________Abstain