March 26, 2008

Dear Local Collaborative Members,

You will remember that last fall the Collaborative approved the *Legislative Guidance for Local Collaboratives* (attached). This legislative guidance is intended to assist you in preparing and submitting your input regarding legislative priorities for upcoming legislative sessions; the guidance addresses both process and timelines. This process will ensure your input is available to the Collaborative as state budget requests are prepared this summer. Although it may be hard to believe, it is now time to start the process of setting legislative priorities for the 2009 legislative session. Local Collaborative Legislative Priorities are due *May 2, 2008* to your CAT Team Member.

The Collaboratives’s Strategic Priorities provide the foundation for our legislative planning. According to the guidance, strategic goals may be developed each year based upon legislative actions. For the 2009 legislative session, we are requesting the Local Collaboratives continue to utilize the exiting Collaborative strategic priorities (attached). We are proceeding in this direction for two reasons. First, in reviewing the current strategic goals, we find that progress is being made but we have not fully achieved these priorities. They are important priorities and we should continue to see this current work through. We will provide an update on progress on the current strategic priorities for your use.

Secondly, the BHPC and some LCs have requested that they be involved in developing and having input into Collaborative strategic goals. We agree with this request; unfortunately, we have not yet been able to identify a process to get local and BHPC input to change strategic goals each year. We will discuss this issue with the current BHPC/LC workgroup that I meet with and get their advice. The process for input on strategic priorities will be developed; presented to the Collaborative and in place prior to starting the legislative input process for local collaboratives for next year. Until that is in place and because we have more to do with the existing priorities, we elected to keep the same strategic priorities for this legislative planning process.

I look forward to working together with you as we continue to shape our planning process and as we move forward with creating our behavioral health legislative agenda for the 2009 Session.

Yours truly,

Linda Roebuck

Cc: Collaborative Members
BHPC staff/LC staff
CEO, New Mexico Behavioral Health Collaborative