

**PROCLAMATION REGARDING
A RECOVERY FRIENDLY COMMUNITY**

WHEREAS, as result of the Recovery Friendly Community Symposium held in Taos in late October, the Community learned:

Taos ranks high among New Mexico counties in mortality related to alcohol and drugs.

Taos County must become a Recovery Friendly Community in order for positive change to happen.

The citizens of Taos County must support access to treatment for its citizens.

Cooperation between legal and medical providers, educators, families, faith-based communities, and mental health and substance abuse providers, and the community at large is required to stop stigma and support recovery.

It is critical that the community, policymakers, friends, families, health care providers, and business men and women be educated to understand that substance abuse and mental health issues are treatable, and that people receiving the treatment needed can be a positive influence in the community.

Persons in recovery can achieve as a healthy lifestyle, both physically and emotionally, while contributing to the community.

The community must be educated to recognize problems and to know where help is available.

A 24/7 crisis team is needed for immediate intervention in cases of crisis mental health and substance abuse events and timely support.

A Respite House to provide support, counseling, and a safe haven during recovery is a needed component in achieving a Recovery Friendly Community.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF TAOS COUNTY that

Taos County supports Recovery Friendly Solutions to increase access to treatment, education of all segments of the community to stop stigma and to recognize that mental health issues and addiction are treatable, and that those in recovery can make positive contributions to the community.

IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED that Taos County supports the community's efforts in developing a Recovery Friendly Community, including its visions for a 24-hour, 7 day-a-week mobile crisis team, expanded local treatment options, and a Respite House.

TAOS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Attest: Anna Martinez
Anna Martinez, Taos County Clerk

By: Dan Barrone
Dan Barrone, Chairman

The results of the discussions are that all agreed Taos needs a crisis system of care.

- **A 24/7 Crisis team that can back up the police when there is a situation that could benefit from immediate crisis mental health and substance abuse supports.**
- **A 24/7 Crisis team would be comprised of community members and counselors working together to access people in need, immediately.**
- **A 24/7 Crisis team that would assist people to access care before having to utilize our already busy Emergency Room.**
- **A 24/7 Crisis team that is able to travel where the person in need is and offer timely supports.**

Another need for Taos that is integral is the development of a recovery friendly community is to support a higher level of care.

Taos does not have a higher level of care programs to support community members to have a safe place to receive treatment without having to leave their community. A Respite house would meet the need. This service could provide aftercare for those leaving detox, could provide 24/7 safety for those having an emotional crisis and not meeting admission criteria for the State Hospital and for folks who need a short respite from their living situation to become more stable. Respite House could also be used to evaluate people instead of taking them to jail.

In order for this project to be achieved much more support is needed from the policy makers of Taos. As a commitment to the community there will need to be discussion on the funding of this invaluable project. As we are all quite aware of, the funding for mental health care is limited at best. This project will take the serious involvement of policy makers, decision makers and the Taos Community at large to succeed.

We would be glad to extend a warm welcome for all attendees.