



# REGION 11

## BEHAVIORAL HEALTH REGIONAL PLAN

Building Stronger  
Systems Together

### **Executive Summary**

*San Juan County • McKinley County • Navajo Nation • Pueblo of Zuni*

**June 2026**



# Why This Plan Matters

**Behavioral health—mental health, substance use, and emotional well-being—is foundational to strong families, safe communities, and economic stability.**

In Region 11, people face serious challenges:

- Long distances between services
- Housing instability and homelessness
- Limited access to timely mental health and substance use care
- High involvement of behavioral health needs in courts, jails, and emergency rooms
- Gaps in culturally responsive and community-based supports

This Regional Behavioral Health Plan is our shared roadmap to address these challenges—together, across counties, Tribal Nations, providers, courts, schools, and communities.

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# Who The Plan Serves

**This plan is designed for all people in Region 11, with focused attention on those most impacted by gaps in care:**

- Native American and Tribal communities
- Rural and frontier residents
- Youth, young adults, and families
- People experiencing homelessness or housing instability
- Individuals involved in the justice system
- People with mental health or substance use challenges

The plan respects Tribal sovereignty, supports government-to-government partnerships, and centers cultural humility and lived experience.



# Our Shared Vision

A coordinated, culturally grounded behavioral health system where people can access the right support, at the right time, where they are rooted.



# What Guides this Plan

This plan was developed through:

- Community listening sessions
- County and Tribal engagement
- An Enhanced Sequential Intercept Mapping (ESIM) workshop
- Data from health, housing, courts, and emergency systems

Community members, service providers, justice partners, and Tribal leaders identified where people get stuck and what works best when systems are aligned.



# Five Regional Priorities

These priorities reflect what the community identified as most urgent and impactful.

Housing

Justice

Coordination

Access

Prevention

# Housing, Shelter, & Transitional Living

## **Housing is the foundation of recovery.**

### **What we're addressing?**

- Homelessness and overcrowding
- Lack of housing options for youth, families, justice-involved individuals, and people with behavioral health needs

### **What this plan supports?**

- Emergency, transitional, and recovery-oriented housing
- Housing linked with behavioral health supports
- Inclusive options for families, youth, elders, and justice-involved individuals

### **Why it matters?**

Stable housing reduces crisis calls, jail stays, hospital visits, and makes treatment work.





# **Diversion, Specialty Courts & Justice System Improvements**

**People need treatment—not jail—  
when behavior is driven by  
behavioral health needs.**

## **What we're addressing?**

- High rates of substance use, mental health crises, and repeat justice involvement

## **What this plan supports?**

- Diversion programs and specialty courts
- Treatment and peer support connected to justice settings
- Youth-focused prevention and intervention

**Why it matters?** Diversion improves safety, reduces costs, and increases recovery and stability.



# Coordination & System Integration

**No one should fall through the cracks.**

**What we're addressing?**

- Fragmented services
- Confusing referral pathways
- Missed handoffs between systems

**What this plan supports?**

- Navigators and peer support
- Shared referral tools and resource directories
- Strong coordination between counties, Tribes, providers, courts, and schools

**Why it matters?** Better coordination means faster help, fewer crises, and better outcomes.



# **Access & Behavioral Health Infrastructure**

## **Care must exist where people live.**

### **What we're addressing?**

- Long waitlists
- Workforce shortages
- Aging or insufficient facilities
- Limited crisis response options

### **What this plan supports?**

- Expanded outpatient, crisis, and recovery services
- Telehealth and mobile service models
- Facility updates and workforce capacity

### **Why it matters?**

- Local access keeps people out of emergency rooms and jails and closer to their support networks.



# Prevention, Community & Cultural Supports

**The strongest systems prevent crises before they happen.**

## **What we're addressing?**

- Youth risk, trauma, and early substance use
- Lack of culturally grounded prevention options

## **What this plan supports?**

- Community-based and culturally grounded prevention
- Youth leadership, mentoring, and safe spaces
- Family and intergenerational supports

## **Why it matters?**

- Prevention builds resilience, reduces stigma, and strengthens communities long-term.

# Budget & Justification

Priority	% of Annual Funds	Justification
<b>Housing &amp; Transitional Living</b>	5% → 15% (scaled)	Housing is foundational; early funding seeds capacity with long-term sustainability
<b>Diversion &amp; Specialty Courts</b>	25%	Reduces jail, improves safety, lowers justice costs
<b>Coordination &amp; Integration</b>	25–30%	Backbone investment; prevents duplication and people falling through gaps
<b>Access &amp; Infrastructure</b>	25–30%	Builds local care, reduces out-of-region placements
<b>Prevention &amp; Cultural Supports</b>	10%	Highest long-term ROI, community resilience



# How the Plan Will be Implemented

## **Implementation is phased, realistic, and accountable:**

- Phase 1: Build coordination, staffing, and governance
- Phase 2: Expand and enhance existing services
- Phase 3: Scale what works and transition to long-term funding

The Accountable Entity along with Tribal Nations invited to serve as Co-Accountable Entities if and how they choose, will be responsible to implement, make investments, and be accountable for impacts.

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# How Success Will Be Measured

**Success is measured by real improvements, including:**

- More people housed and stabilized
- Reduced emergency room visits and jail stays
- Faster access to care
- Increased use of outpatient and recovery services
- Stronger coordination across systems
- Improved outcomes for youth and families

Data will be used for continuous improvement, not punishment.

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# Funding & Sustainability

- Short-term funds build capacity and fill gaps
  - Medicaid sustains eligible services over time
  - Tribal, county, state, and federal funding are braided—not duplicated
  - The plan focuses on long-term stability, not temporary fixes
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# What This Means for the Region

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**This  
plan  
means:**

- Fewer crises and fewer barriers
- More support closer to home
- Respect for culture, sovereignty, and lived experience
- A system that works with people – not around them

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“Region 11 is building a connected, culturally grounded behavioral health system that puts people back in the center and creates ripples of lasting change for families and communities.”



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