



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

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Governor Bill Richardson Appoints Linda Roebuck as Behavioral Health Czar

SANTA FE – Governor Bill Richardson today announced the appointment of Linda Roebuck as his new Behavioral Health Czar. Roebuck, who has 33 years experience teaching, doing research and leading state government in the behavioral health field, will be the Governor’s point person on behavioral health issues. Roebuck will serve as the CEO of the Behavioral Health Purchasing Collaborative beginning in mid-January.

“We must improve access to treatment and support services for New Mexicans who suffer from behavioral health and substance abuse problems,” Governor Bill Richardson said. “Linda Roebuck has a well-rounded background that will help us reform our system and improve services to New Mexicans.”

Roebuck takes over the position from Steve Johnson, who was interim czar since July. Johnson will continue working with Behavioral Health Collaborative cross-agency staff, focusing on children’s behavioral health issues.

Roebuck, who earned her Master of Science degree in Social Work from the University of Missouri, was Deputy Director of the Missouri Department of Mental Health from 2002 to August 2006, dealing with mental health, substance abuse and developmental disabilities issues. She also served as Acting Director of Missouri’s Division of Comprehensive Psychiatric Services, where she also spent time as deputy director. Roebuck served as an assistant professor at the University of South Florida’s Mental Health Institute.