



# NEW MEXICO CORRECTIONS DEPARTMENT

MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM, GOVERNOR

Alisha Tafoya Lucero, Cabinet Secretary

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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## **Largest group of NMCD inmates complete CPSW training** *Professional peer support training allows inmates to seek employment prior to release*

**Santa Fe** – Eleven inmates at the New Mexico Corrections Department (NMCD) Southern New Mexico Correctional Facility (SNMCF) successfully completed the Certified Peer Support Worker (CPSW) vocational training. This is the *largest* CPSW learning group of NMCD inmates. The 40-hour training happened in July, and it was done in collaboration with the state's Behavioral Health Services Division (BHSD) and the Office of Peer Recovery and Engagement (OPRE); State certification is scheduled for October.

### **Impact on Recidivism**

Upon completion of state certification, the individuals have the opportunity to gain employment *prior* to release. According to OPRE, the average salary for CPSWs ranges between \$17 to \$20 per hour. This salary is also dependent on the individuals work experience, the communities in which they serve, and the employer.



CPSW Trainees at SNMCF

### **Uniquely Qualified**

CPSWs are uniquely qualified to enhance services delivered by provider agencies and other organizations, due to their own personal recovery experiences. They're able to use those experiences to deliver an array of support services, inspire hope, and instill in others a sense of empowerment. OPRE CPSW applicants must self-attest to at least 3-years of consecutive years of continuous recovery.

“I have had the honor of working with OPRE and being a part of the amazing work they do, for a number of years now. The OPRE team partnered with NMCD in 2019 and started their journey at the Central New Mexico Correctional Facility in Los Lunas. Even though there were no trainings in 2020 and 2021, due to COVID restrictions, NMCD and OPRE have graduated 39 incarcerated individuals and recently trained another 11 at the Southern New Mexico Correctional Facility with an expected graduation date of October. *These individuals have changed their lives.* They are committed to living sober lives, while helping others in their community. I am humbled by the work that these individuals have done, the behavioral health team that came together to make sure this opportunity was successful, and NMCD’s Cabinet Secretary, Alisha Tafoya Lucero for being such a huge advocate and support for this program.” **Dr. Tracy J. Hollingworth, Ph.D., LPCC, NMCD Deputy Behavioral Health Bureau Chief**



CPSW Trainees at SNMCF

### **Media**

If you wish to arrange an interview with a CPSW trainee, NMCD representative, or OPRE representative please contact NMCD PIO Brittany Roembach: [Brittany.roembach@cd.nm.gov](mailto:Brittany.roembach@cd.nm.gov)