

COI Impact Report FY 21-22 (July 2020-June 2023)

The Center of Innovation for Behavioral Health and Wellbeing was created with New Mexico’s children, youth, and families in mind to address the pressing need to strengthen and expand children’s behavioral health services. **At the Center of Innovation (COI), we strive to promote a high-quality behavioral health system that creates an accessible, effective, and responsive network of support.** The COI is proud to be a key partner of the New Mexico Children Youth and Families Department-Behavioral Health Services (CYFD-BHS) to serve as a training hub and workforce development center. The COI aims to strengthen the state’s system, while supporting community-based programs to thrive. This is achievable, in part, through collaborative relationships with diverse stakeholders throughout the community. The Center of Innovation strongly believes that children and families deserve the best possible chance to live out their hopes and dreams, and that it is our responsibility as professionals working in the system to provide a safe and equitable pathway for them to do so. An effective and integrated system of care is one that places the value of human dignity at its center.

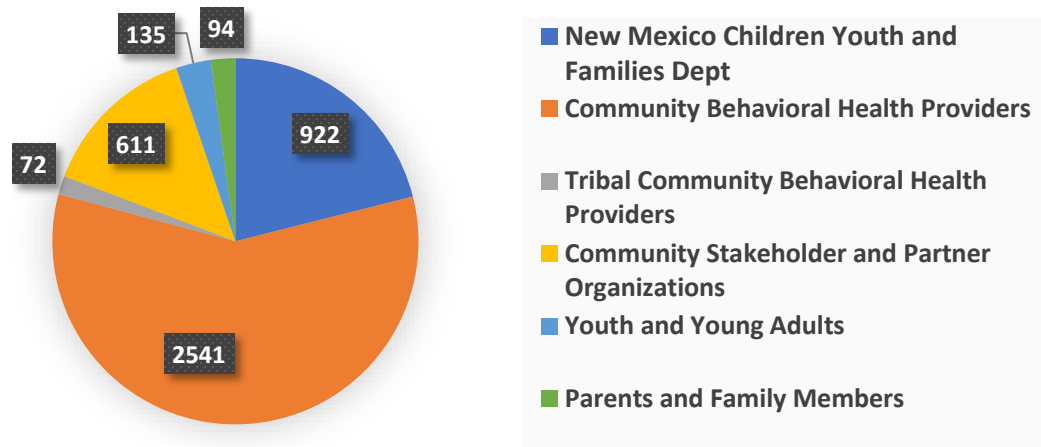
Key Impacts of the COI (July 2020-June 2022)

The Center of Innovation was **established in 2019**, building on the success of its predecessor organization that has been in the College of ACES since 2012. **Since July 2020** the COI has blossomed, increasing its funding from multiple State of New Mexico partners, and reaching a wider audience of stakeholders throughout the state.

- The COI currently employs **17 fulltime staff**, 3 Graduate Students and 1 undergraduate student. **11 staff are NMSU Alumni** at the Bachelor and/or Master level.
- Between July 2020 and June 2022, we offered **37 different training topics** and conducted **221 separate events**, transitioning all of them to a virtual environment.
- **5,234** people attended trainings with a combined **2,164** attendees at our annual conferences for a total audience reached of **7,398 over a two-year period.**
- A growing mailing list of **4,665**, primarily behavioral health and child welfare professionals, as well as interested community members, gives the COI direct access to those working throughout the state to better the lives of New Mexican families.

Training Participants by Category

5234 Total Participants (FY21-FY22)



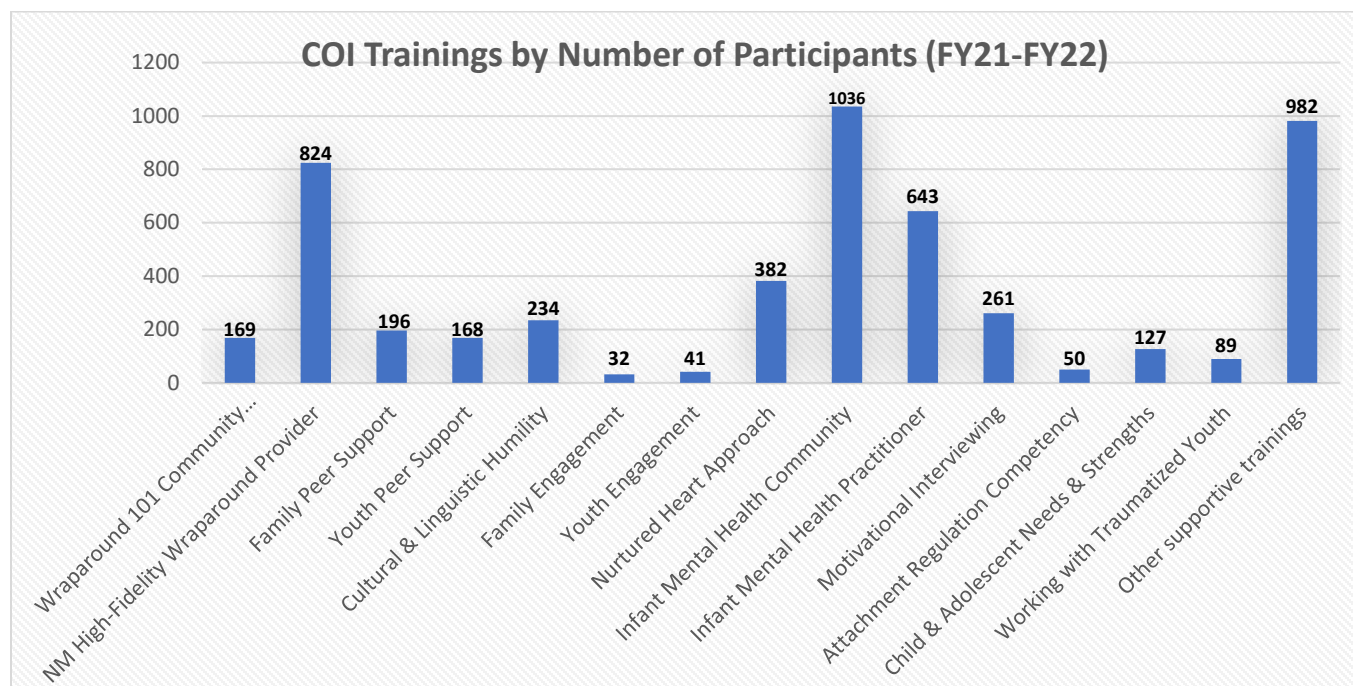
Center of Innovation Team and Expertise

The need for a strong, supportive behavioral health system has grown and so has the need to expand our team. Housed in New Mexico State University’s Extension Family and Consumer Sciences Department in the College of Agriculture, Consumer, and Environmental Sciences, **the COI team has grown from 6 employees to 17 over recent years.** Our continuously growing staff is comprised of Licensed Social Workers, Educators and Public Health Professionals, as well as experts adult learning and teaching styles, professional development curriculum, evidence-based practice implementation, marketing, logistics, event planning, data collection and evaluation. We are certified to train in multiple curricula including Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction, the Nurtured Heart Approach, and Question Persuade Refer (QPR). COI staff are also able to develop and train on curriculum by custom design to meet the needs of a particular population.

Trainings and Core Program Areas

The COI provides training and program implementation support to ensure that community providers can learn and grow within a supportive environment, gain practical skills and receive training and support that directly impacts their communities. Some of the Core Programs supported by COI include:

- The New Mexico Children’s Law Institute (CLI)
- NM High-Fidelity Wraparound
- NM Family Peer Support
- NM Youth Peer Support
- NM Quality Service Review
- The Nurtured Heart Approach
- Infant Mental Health Child-Parent Psychotherapy Clinician Training
- Evidence-Based and Supportive Training Implementation



Detailed Program Highlights

The Children's Law Institute- New Mexico's largest child welfare conference!

One of the COIs biggest annual partnership events is the Children's Law Institute (CLI) conference. With over **1000 participants** annually, this multi-agency cross-sectional opportunity for collaboration provides a space for critical conversations and connection with colleagues. This three-day event offers a unique opportunity to hear from relevant and impactful speakers from the local and national level, as well as a chance to attend over forty unique skill-building workshops that provide attendees with an opportunity to reflect on how to embrace change and revolutionize their practice. **For almost thirty-years**, the CLI conference has focused on new and emerging trends and best practices in ever changing child welfare and juvenile justice environments. Through the CLI, the child welfare and juvenile justice communities have successfully advocated for blending systems and preserving connections. Together the CLI community has learned the importance of a trauma-informed approach, acquired skills for enhancing practice, and deepened its service to children and youth by focusing on empathy and compassion. Planning has already excitedly begun for the 30th annual CLI conference in January 2023.

NM High-Fidelity Wraparound

NM High-Fidelity Wraparound is a community provider based behavioral health program overseen by the NM Children Youth and Families Department that provides intensive care coordination to young people and their families with complex needs, helping them address their needs and live out their hopes and dreams. The Center of Innovation supports the NM High-Fidelity Wraparound program through training and certification of Wraparound Teams throughout the state.

Between July 2020 and June 2022, the Center of Innovation has provided the following:

- **169 participants** have attended Wraparound Community Awareness Trainings
- **824 participants** have participated in Wraparound Provider Training across all core trainings
- These trained community providers **have served 522 families across 9 counties**, supporting families with complex needs to keep their youth in their home, in their community and receiving the necessary supports to maintain their safety and wellbeing.

Families served, by county, July 2020-June 2022:

- Bernalillo County:**221**
- Valencia County:**38**
- San Juan County:**29**
- McKinley County: **7**
- Sandoval County: **23**
- Dona Ana County: **20**
- Lea County: **133**
- Chavez County: **19**
- Roosevelt County: **32**

NM Family Peer Support

NM Family Peer Support Program assists parents and primary caregivers who need support and guidance in how to access and engage with child-serving systems. Families can benefit from this program through the support of a trained and certified staff member who has lived experience parenting a child, youth, or young adult with emotional, behavioral, and mental health challenges. The Center of Innovation provides training and program implementation support to individuals seeking certification and community providers with program implementation support.

Between July 2020 and June 2022, the Center of Innovation has provided the following:

- Trained **196 participants** in Family Peer Support related topics.
- This includes **6 sessions** of the 40-hour Family Peer Support Worker Certification Training for **63 Family Peer Support Worker Candidates** and **2 Family Peer Support Supervisor Trainings** for **26 community provider supervisors**.

NM Youth Peer Support

Our newest program, recently approved for statewide certification by the New Mexico Credentialing Board for Behavioral Health Professionals, Youth Peer Support is a community-based program that employs young people who have successfully navigated life challenges, to promote belonging, hope, and shared power within the community as a Youth Peer Support Specialist (YPSS). YPSS connect with peers in their community in a mutual relationship of shared empathy and demonstrated resiliency. They provide the additional support, validation, and encouragement necessary for youth to effectively engage with their support systems during the transition to adulthood.

Between July 2020 and June 2022, the Center of Innovation has provided the following:

- Adaptation of a 40-hour Youth Peer Certification Training for New Mexico
- Development and approval of pathway for certification for Youth Peer Support Specialists
- Trained **168 participants** in Youth Peer Support related topics including **22 young adults** to be potential Youth Peer Support Specialists.
- Supported **2 Community Providers** to launch Youth Peer Support Programs

The Nurtured Heart Approach

The Nurtured Heart Approach (NHA) is a relationship-based model that aims to build Inner Wealth™ and resiliency by practicing self and co-regulation, creating opportunities to celebrate success, and practicing clear consistent communication. The utilization of NHA has been identified as a key strategy to help leadership, providers, and community members actualize their approach to trauma responsive work with a strengths-based lens and an emphasis on connection.

Between July 2020 and June 2022, the Center of Innovation has provided the following:

- Validation of a new evaluation instrument to measure the Inner Wealth of professionals working in the field of human services.
- Trained **382 participants** in the Introduction to Nurtured Heart Approach
- Lead strategic planning for the State of New Mexico on integration the Nurtured Heart Approach as a way of practice throughout all levels of the System of Care.

We are continuously proud of the collaboration and innovation that we support with our community partnerships, as well as the growth we see in our community and behavioral health system every year. The COI will continue to strive to meet our long-term goals which include increasing our focus on outreach to the community, continuing to support and train more community members throughout the state of New Mexico by training more partners and offering more program areas, and overall continue to strengthen the behavioral health system so that New Mexico children, youth, and families can thrive.