

NEWS RELEASE-for immediate release
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Budget Cuts Affect Behavioral Health Programs

The impact of state budget reductions on behavioral health services will be among the subjects discussed at this month's Communities in Recovery forum Wednesday, May 12th at 6:30 pm. The forum will be conducted in the Community Room at the Verde Valley Guidance Clinic, 8 E. Cottonwood St. in Cottonwood. The Communities in Recovery forums, which combine consumer information from six local agencies, will host a visit from Bob Sorce, the Assistant Director of the Arizona Department of Health Services Division of Behavioral Health Services. Mr. Sorce will explain the changes in eligibility for behavioral health services which are anticipated to take effect July 1st as a result of State budget cuts. Significant changes are expected, especially for persons with serious mental illness who do not qualify for AHCCCS, Arizona's version of Medicaid. A representative from the Northern Arizona Behavioral Health Authority (NARBHA) will also attend. NARBHA administers the State and federally funded behavioral health programs in Northern Arizona.

This month's featured presenter, Recovery Innovations Arizona, will describe their local services for persons seeking recovery from addiction and mental illness. Robyn Kelley, MS, Recovery Services Administrator for the Peer & Family Partnership of Northern Arizona will be joined by Mike Zeeb, manager of the agency's Wellness City program. The Recovery Innovations mission statement describes the program's goal: "To create opportunities and environments that empower people to recover, to succeed in accomplishing their goals, and to reconnect to themselves, others, and to meaning and purpose in life."

Communities in Recovery participating agencies are The Verde Valley Guidance Clinic, Recovery Innovations, NAZCARE, NAMI-Sedona, Mingus Center, and DES/RSA. The forums are free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served. For information, contact Richard Dehnert, Community Relations Coordinator for the Verde Valley Guidance Clinic at 634-2236.