

Budget's impact on behavioral health to be discussed

The third in a series of forums on behavioral health services in the Verde Valley-Sedona area will focus on the impact of the Arizona budget crunch. The series of forums, titled Communities in Recovery, is presented by six agencies, the Verde Valley Guidance Clinic, Mingus Center, Recovery Innovations Arizona, The National Alliance on Mental Illness-Sedona chapter, the Arizona Department of Economic Security's Rehabilitation Services Administration, and NAZCARE.

Some behavioral health services for non-AHCCCS eligible adults and children have already been limited due to State budget cuts. The panel will discuss the potential impact of the Governor's budget proposal, which includes a roll-back of AHCCCS eligibility for hundreds of thousands of Arizona residents. Those attending the forum will also receive an update on pending legislation, both state and federal, which may impact the future of publicly funded behavioral health services. This information should be valuable to consumers and their families as well as service providers.

The monthly forums are held in the Community Room at the Verde Valley Guidance Clinic's Cottonwood campus, located at 8 E. Cottonwood St. This month's forum will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 10. The forums are free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served.

For information, call the Verde Valley Guidance Clinic's Community Relations Coordinator, Richard Dehnert, at 634-2236.