

**CALL FOR COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS
TO STAFF A NEW COMMITTEE FOR THE DIVERSION PROGRAM!**

The Diversion Program has continued to expand services to nurses and has demonstrated the need for additional professional staff to assist in its Board mandate to provide an alternative diversion program for nurses with chemical dependency issues. We are pleased to announce that Mary Messinger, LADAC, has been hired on as case manager to assist with the review and monitoring of nurses in the Albuquerque metro area.

Close monitoring of compliance and adherence to contract stipulations is very important to the success of a strong and effective alternative diversion program and also enhances the public protection mandate of the Board of Nursing. The New Mexico DP has traditionally met these requirements with ongoing case management and close scrutiny of every nurse participating in the DP.

With the increased number of nurses admitted into the DP and the additional availability of the case manager, the need for an additional Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) in the Albuquerque metro area has been identified. The DP continues to adhere to the practice of requiring quarterly face-to-face evaluations to all nurses enrolled in the DP. To maintain this requirement, a fifth, monthly RAC meeting will be scheduled for the Albuquerque metro area. Because the RAC meetings rely on the consistent and professional support from expert volunteers, we are putting out a call for volunteers to staff this new RAC meeting. Requirements for appointment to the RAC include either experience in the substance abuse field and/or long-term recovery accompanied by knowledge of addiction and recovery issues. Committee members provide ongoing monitoring of compliance and feedback to nurses currently participating in the DP. As they become familiar with the individual nurses, they may develop a mentoring relationship as well as providing feedback on current compliance issues and making recommendations for changes in contract conditions based on compliance and cooperation.

In order to be appointed to the Regional Advisory Committee, applicants need to complete and send in the Advisory Committee Nomination Form,(which can be found on the NM Board of Nursing website at (www.bon.state.nm.us) and specify that they are applying for the Diversion Program Advisory Committee.

The Board of Nursing must approve all regional advisory committee applicants. After the Diversion Program receives committee applications, they will be presented to the Board of Nursing at their next regularly scheduled meeting. After approval, the applicant will be notified in writing and given a schedule for the monthly Albuquerque committee meetings. We are anticipating that the new committee will be meeting on the first Tuesday morning of each month, during the same week as the other regularly scheduled committee meetings. Regular attendance at committee meetings helps the members become familiar with the individual nurses assigned to their committee and be more effective in providing evaluation and feedback about compliance. We understand this is a major commitment in time and energy, and we are very appreciative of the work and impact that this work has on the success of the nurses in the DP. If you are interested in joining the other volunteers in supporting the success of individual nurses and the integrity of the DP, please submit your application. If you have questions about time commitments for the committee, please feel free to contact me directly at 505-841-8345, and I would be happy to talk with you.