

ValueOptions New Mexico Names Patsy Romero VP of Government Relations

Albuquerque, New Mexico—Oct. 25, 2007 — ValueOptions New Mexico (VONM) has appointed Patsy Romero Vice President of Government Relations. In addition to her new role, Romero will retain her title and responsibilities as Region 2 Director for the company.

“As the new Vice President of Government Relations, Patsy will serve as our primary liaison for all branches of state government, including legislators, state and local agencies, and judges,” explained Mary Mastrandrea, acting CEO for VONM. “Patsy has a proven track record of working closely and successfully with many levels of government. We are fortunate to have someone with her experience serve in this new capacity.”

Romero, who will continue to be based in Santa Fe, will facilitate an environment of open communication between state and local officials and VONM, serving as a single point of contact on issues and concerns related to behavioral healthcare across every region of the state.

A graduate of Pomona University's Western Cuna Management School and a Certified Professional in Healthcare Quality (CPHQ), Romero has been the Region 2 Director for VONM since 2005. She has built a long and distinguished career serving behavioral health consumers and providers in both the Northern and Southern regions of New Mexico. Under the state's Regional Care Coordinator (RCC) system, which oversaw the adult indigent funding prior to VONM, she served as Executive Director for Region Two Behavioral Health Providers, Quality Improvement Coordinator/Risk Manager for Rio Grande Behavioral Health Services Inc., and Quality Management Director for Southwest Counseling Center. She is a member of the National Alliance on Mental Illness and has been longtime advocate for sexual assault victims.

“I am very excited about this new opportunity to further enhance the relationships we have with our state officials,” said Romero. “VONM is committed to reaching out to all levels of government to further transform the behavioral health system in this state, and I am honored to be a part of it.”

About ValueOptions New Mexico

ValueOptions New Mexico is the Statewide Entity that manages public funding and delivery of care for behavioral health in New Mexico. The organization is committed to providing behavioral health services that are both culturally competent and responsive to the unique needs of New Mexicans.

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About ValueOptions

ValueOptions, the nation's largest independent behavioral health care company, provides services to more than 23 million individuals through a variety of contracts with health plans and employers, as well as through state and county agencies. ValueOptions is a national managed care company that specializes in disease management for all behavioral health issues, and mental health and chemical dependency diagnoses.

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