



*Prisoner Health is Community Health*  
The New Mexico Peer Education Program  
Pilot Training, July 27–30, 2009



# Project ECHO Mission

*The mission of Project ECHO is to develop the capacity to safely and effectively treat chronic, common and complex diseases in rural and underserved areas and to monitor outcomes.*

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# Hepatitis C in New Mexico

- Estimated number is greater than 28,000
- Without treatment 8,000 patients will develop cirrhosis between 2010–2015 with several thousand deaths
- ~2400 prisoners diagnosed in corrections system (expected number is greater than 2400)
- Highest rate of chronic liver disease/cirrhosis deaths in the nation



# Prison Peer Education

- Successful program, “Wall Talk,” in Texas prisons
- Over 1200 peer educators now in Texas
- Over 100,000 prisoners have received health training.



# New Mexico Initiative

- Outgrowth of Project ECHO HCV Corrections Clinic
- Collaboration between Project ECHO, New Mexico Corrections Department, NMCD Reentry Bureau, Central New Mexico Correctional Facility Level II unit



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## *The New Mexico Peer Education Program*

### ▪Goals:

- Increase knowledge of Hepatitis C, STIs, addictions, and general health literacy
- Help prisoners identify and implement ways for reducing HCV/STI risk behaviors
- For peer educators, increase job skills and potential for employment as a Community Health Worker or Health Educator after release



Photo consents on file with Project ECHO and CNMCF



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## *The New Mexico Peer Education Program*

*Pilot training cohort, CNMCF Level II, July 27-30, 2009*



First day of peer educator training

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Peer educator trainees working with training manual.

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First attempts at public speaking

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Individual study required to build knowledge of training concepts

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Developing presentation skills with expert content feedback

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"Training the trainer"; former inmate now employed as expert health educator

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Knowledge development with UNMHSC physician

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"Training the trainer" in addictions

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"Training the trainer" teaching skills

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"Training the trainer" teaching skills

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NMCD Reentry Bureau Chief addresses the trainers

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Interactive knowledge builders, "Culture and Health"

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Presentation skills rehearsal

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Interactive knowledge builders, "Staph Infections"

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Interactive knowledge builders, "Tuberculosis"

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Interactive knowledge builders, "Sexually Transmitted Infections"

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CNMCF Deputy Warden addresses the trainers

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# Next Steps



CNMCF Level II Program Manager with trainers

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# *Next Steps*

- Evaluate pilot training outcomes
- Initiate training at Level II orientation and with Level II inmates
- Develop evaluation tools for prisoner trainees
- Replicate in other correctional facilities



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# *Thank you*

This pilot program would not have been possible without the efforts and support of these people...

- Secretary of Corrections Joe R. Williams
- Stephen Vaughn, MD, NMCD Health Services Bureau Chief
- Bernard Lieving, LMSW, NMCD Bureau Chief for Reentry and Prison Reform
- Christine Vallejos, NMCD Deputy Warden, Central New Mexico Correctional Facility
- Joe Garcia, NMCD Deputy Warden, Central New Mexico Correctional Facility
- Desri Worley, Program Manager, Level II, Central New Mexico Correctional Facility



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