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# Innovative Health Plan Initiatives: Molina Healthcare of New Mexico & University of New Mexico Project ECHO

May 30, 2013

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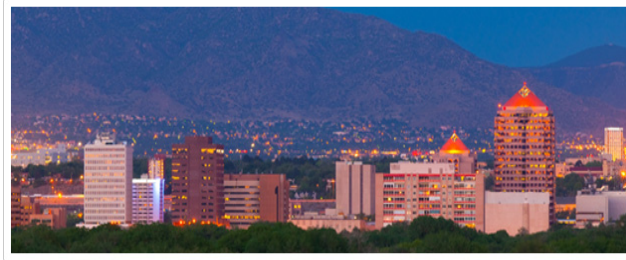
# Molina Story



"Everyone deserves respect.  
When they're down on  
their luck, they need it more."

C. David Molina, MD







# New Mexico

- 121,356 square miles (5<sup>th</sup> largest state)
- 2,085,538 million people



	New Mexico	Nationally
American Indian and Alaska Native	10.1%	1.2%
Hispanic or Latino Origin	46.7%	16.7%
Persons below poverty level	19.0%	14.3%
Persons per square mile	17.0	87.4
Persons without health insurance	21.6%	16.3%

- Second highest rate of people without health insurance - 21.6% (16.3%)

References:

<http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/35000.html>

[http://money.cnn.com/2011/09/13/news/economy/census\\_bureau\\_health\\_insurance/index.htm](http://money.cnn.com/2011/09/13/news/economy/census_bureau_health_insurance/index.htm)



## Mexican Springs, NM

(Google Maps)



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(Google maps)

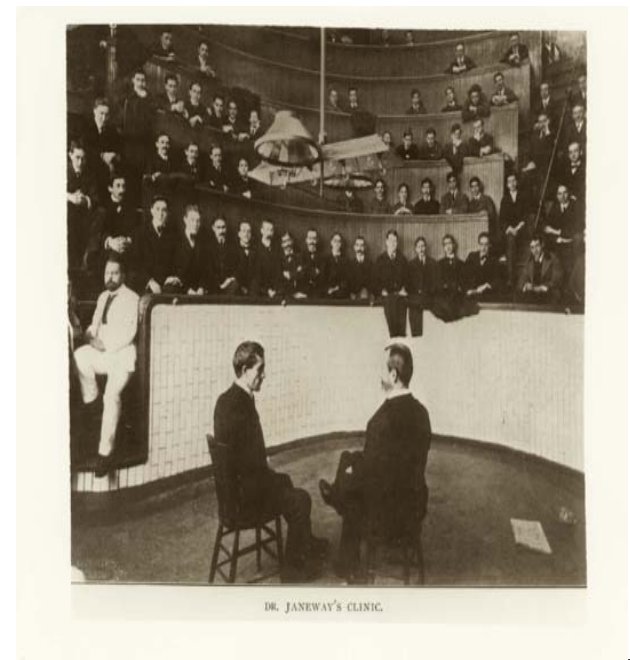
# Project ECHO™

- The Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes (ECHO) model was developed at the University of New Mexico to improve access to care for underserved populations with complex health problems.
- With the use of video-conferencing technology, the ECHO program trains primary care providers to treat complex diseases.
- Began as a Hepatitis C intervention by Dr. Sanjeev Arora at the University of New Mexico.











# Hepatitis C in New Mexico

- Highest rate of chronic liver disease/cirrhosis deaths in the nation



# Hepatitis C – New Mexico



- In 2004, patients from rural areas had to wait up to 6 months for an appointment at the UNM HCV clinic and had to travel up to 250 miles.
- A typical patient would have to make an average of 18 trips during the course of treatment.
- Major barriers to care also exist among prison inmates.
  - According to data from the Department of Corrections, 40% of the 6000 inmates in the New Mexico Department of Corrections are infected with HCV.
  - As of 2003, not a single patient in the correctional system had received treatment for HCV infection.
- Objectives of the Project ECHO™ intervention:
  - Improve the access of minorities and other underserved populations to best-practice care for hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection
  - Determine the safety and efficacy of treatment for HCV infection based on the ECHO model in rural communities
  - Compare the effectiveness of the ECHO model with that of university-based clinic treatment.

# Hepatitis C – Project ECHO™

- Currently, there are 16 community sites and 5 prisons in which treatment for HCV infection is delivered with the use of the ECHO model.
- Since ECHO's inception in 2003, there have been more than 5000 case presentations, and 800 patients have been treated.
- Published results in New England Journal of Medicine (NEJM) from a prospective cohort study to assess the safety and efficacy of treatment based on the ECHO model, as compared with treatment at a university HCV clinic.
- Hypothesis that when treatment for HCV infection is delivered in the community (or prison) with the use of the ECHO model, it is as effective as that provided at the academic medical center.
- **Conclusion:** The results of this study show that the ECHO model is an effective way to treat HCV infection in underserved communities. The project shows that technological tools and interdisciplinary collaboration can be used to leverage scarce resources for specialty care.





# Project ECHO Clinicians

## HCV Knowledge Skills and Abilities (Self-Efficacy)

scale: 1 = none or no skill at all 7= expert-can teach others

Community Clinicians N=25	<u>BEFORE</u> Participation MEAN (SD)	<u>TODAY</u> MEAN (SD)	Paired Difference MEAN (SD) (p-value)
1. Ability to identify suitable candidates for treatment for HCV.	2.8 (1.2)	5.6 (0.8)	2.8 (1.2) (<0.0001)
2. Ability to assess severity of liver disease in patients with Hepatitis C.	3.2 (1.2)	5.5 (0.9)	2.3 (1.1) (< 0.0001)
3. Ability to treat HCV patients and manage side effects.	2.0 (1.1)	5.2 (0.8)	3.2 (1.2) (<0.0001)



# Project ECHO Clinicians

## HCV Knowledge Skills and Abilities (Self-Efficacy)

scale: 1 = none or no skill at all 7= expert-can teach others

Community Clinicians N=25	BEFORE Participation MEAN (SD)	TODAY MEAN (SD)	Paired Difference MEAN/SD (p-value)
4. Ability to assess and manage psychiatric co-morbidities in patients with Hepatitis C.	2.6 (1.2)	5.1 (1.0)	2.4 (1.3) ( $<0.0001$ )
5. Serve as local consultant within my clinic and in my area for HCV questions and issues.	2.4 (1.2)	5.6 (0.9)	3.3 (1.2) ( $<0.0001$ )
6. Ability to educate and motivate HCV patients.	3.0 (1.1)	5.7 (0.6)	2.7 (1.1) ( $<0.0001$ )



# Force Multiplier

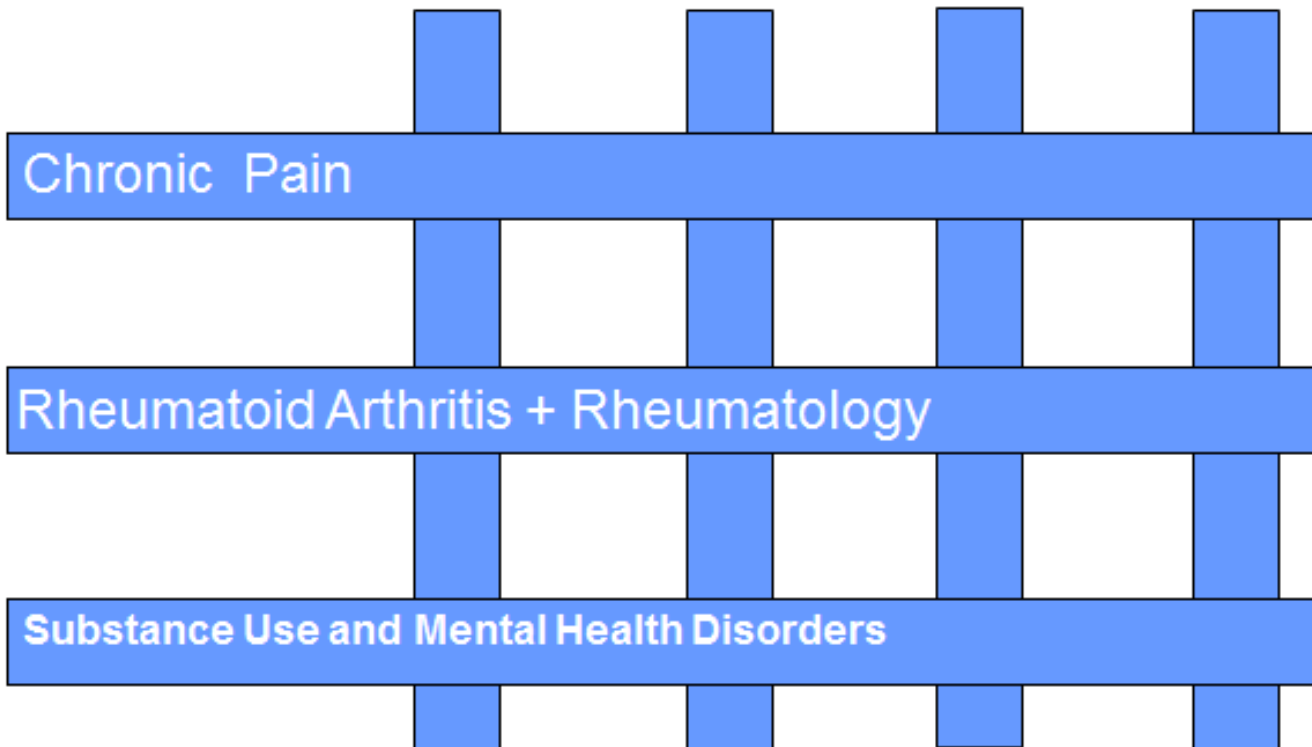
Use Existing Community Clinicians

Specialists

Primary  
Care

Physician  
Assistants

















Nurse  
Practitioners





# Project ECHO™

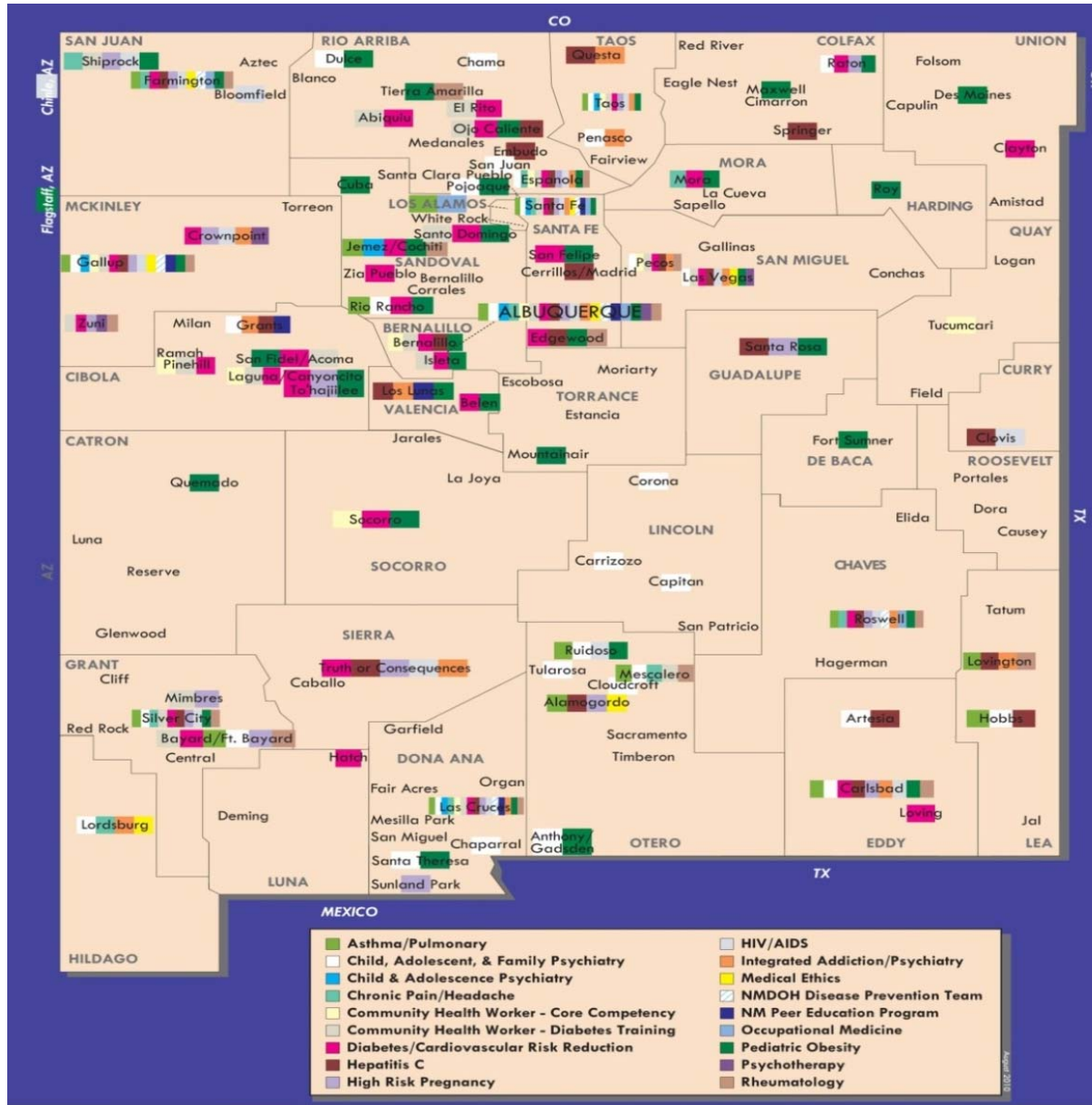
- As a result of the success of the model for treatment of HCV infection, the ECHO program has been expanded to 255 sites and multiple other specialty clinics address common and complex health issues, including:

 Asthma/Pulmonary	 HIV/AIDS
 Child, Adolescent, & Family Psychiatry	 Integrated Addiction/Psychiatry
 Child & Adolescence Psychiatry	 Medical Ethics
 Chronic Pain/Headache	 NMDOH Disease Prevention Team
 Community Health Worker - Core Competency	 NM Peer Education Program
 Community Health Worker - Diabetes Training	 Occupational Medicine
 Diabetes/Cardiovascular Risk Reduction	 Pediatric Obesity
 Hepatitis C	 Psychotherapy
 High Risk Pregnancy	 Rheumatology

August 2010

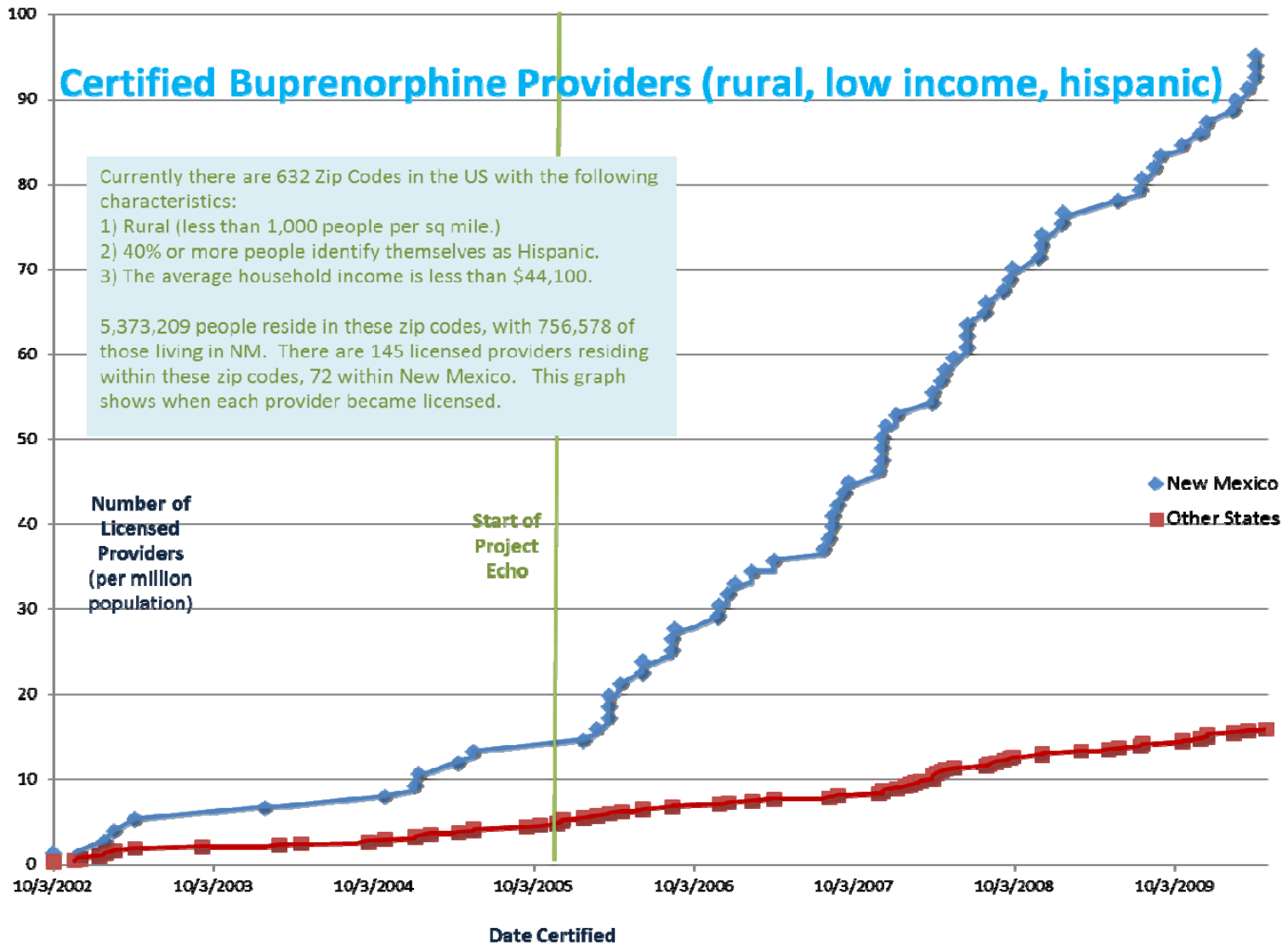
- Other states with Project ECHO™ clinics:
  - University of Washington:** Hepatitis C, Chronic Pain, Substance Use Disorders, HIV
  - University of Chicago:** Difficult to treat Hypertension
  - Beth Israel Deaconess Boston:** Hepatitis C
  - University of Utah:** Hepatitis C
  - University of Nevada:** Diabetes
  - University of South Florida:** HIV







## Certified Buprenorphine Providers (rural, low income, hispanic)



# Project ECHO™ – Molina New Mexico

## Benefits of Project ECHO™ :

- Improved provider satisfaction (no cost CME, mini-fellowships)
- Cost-effective intervention (decreased transportation costs)
- Patient-centered and coordinated care
- Improved member satisfaction

## Barriers:

- No reimbursement of services (providers, ECHO)

## Solution:

- Reimburse practitioners for presentations to ECHO
- Outreach to participating providers and engage new providers
- Identify potential members for intervention



# Complex Care Clinic

- Members have complex healthcare needs that require a comprehensive, coordinated and multi-disciplinary approach.
  - 49 year old male with uncontrolled diabetes, bipolar disorder and chronic pain at risk for substance abuse with opiates. Frequent ER visits for pain and inpatient admissions for diabetic complications.
- Easy for this member to get lost in the daily outpatient clinic shuffle.
- PCP may not have the expertise to deal with all of these issues.
- Primary care clinic may not have the resources to manage this member.
- An intensive intervention is needed.
- “Outpatient ICU”
  - Team-based intervention
  - Intensive management
  - Specialized care
  - Coordinated care



# Integrated Community Based Care Model

