



**San Juan County**  
100 South Oliver • Aztec, NM 87410  
(505) 334-4271 • [www.SJCounty.net](http://www.SJCounty.net)

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**June 1, 2022**

**Media Contact:** Devin Neeley, Public Relations Manager  
(505) 386-8325 • [Devin.Neeley@SJCounty.net](mailto:Devin.Neeley@SJCounty.net)

### **For Immediate Release**

#### **San Juan County Earns National Achievement Award for Mental Wellness Resource Center**

*AZTEC, NM*—The San Juan County Mental Wellness Resource Center has been recognized with an Achievement Award from the National Association of Counties (NACo). The awards honor innovative, effective county government programs that strengthen services for residents.

NACo recognized the Mental Wellness Resource Center and its staff for the positive impact on thousands of lives in the county. This is San Juan County's 12<sup>th</sup> national achievement award from NACo.

The Mental Wellness Resource has been open since November 2020 and serves to connect people to vital resources for mental health. Those resources may include mental health counseling and support, substance abuse treatment, counseling, and recovery, homelessness resources, and transportation. Staff can assist with applications for housing programs, financial assistance, disability programs, basic needs resources, child care assistance, employment, and other necessary community resources. Staff assists clients in navigating the sometimes-complex systems of vital resources and coaches people to commit to self-directed care.

“We knew that a gap existed and by filling the gap, we have already seen improvements in the County's overall well-being,” said San Juan County Commission Chair Terri Fortner. “As this program continues to grow to serve the population, we will continue to strive to fill other gaps on the road to a wholly-healthy county.”

NACo President Larry Johnson said, “All across the country, counties are working tirelessly to support residents and drive recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. This year's Achievement Award-winning programs showcase how counties work every day to build healthy, safe, and thriving communities.”

Nationally, awards are given in 18 different categories that reflect the vast, comprehensive services counties provide. The categories include children and youth, criminal justice and public safety, county administration, information technology, health, civic engagement, and many more.

Starting in 1970, NACo's annual Achievement Awards program is designed to recognize county government innovations. Each nominee is judged on its own merits and not against other applications received.

###

Find more about the Mental Wellness Resource Center online at [SJConnect.net](http://SJConnect.net)

See more about the award at [naco.org/resources/award-programs/mental-wellness-resource-center](http://naco.org/resources/award-programs/mental-wellness-resource-center)