



Michelle Lujan Grisham, Governor
David R. Scrase, M.D., Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jodi McGinnis Porter

jodi.mcginis-porter@state.nm.us

505-476-7203 office; 505-670-4136 cell

September 6, 2019

GME Expansion Review Board and Advisory Group announce Mission Statement and Goals

Santa Fe, NM – The Graduate Medical Education (GME) Expansion Review Board and Advisory Group held their first two-day kickoff meeting this week in Albuquerque. The GME Board and Advisory Group will oversee the GME Expansion Grant Program that will establish grants to fund new GME programs and expand existing programs to increase the health care work force in New Mexico, particularly in the fields of primary care and psychiatry. At the meeting, the board and advisory group established their mission, vision, and three key goals.

Mission: *To increase access to healthcare by using informed and innovative strategies to develop and expand accredited primary care and psychiatry graduate medical education to improve the health of New Mexico.*

Vision: *All New Mexicans have timely access to community driven, culturally informed primary care and behavioral health services, through growth of high-quality graduate medical education training programs.*

Goals:

1. *Create a comprehensive 5-year plan for GME expansion state-wide to significantly increase the number of primary care, psychiatry, and other high need training programs.*
2. *Develop and implement a grant evaluation and award process for the development and expansion of nationally accredited programs.*
3. *Develop an academic and financial plan for sustainable program expansion.*

The GME Expansion Grant Program was established by House Bill 480 sponsored by Representatives Doreen Y. Gallegos and Nathan P. Small. The bill passed unanimously in both houses and was signed by Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham April 2, 2019.

"I'm excited about the statewide momentum for GME expansion after this two-day kickoff," said Representative Nathan P. Small. "The time is right, with this unique opportunity – to make sure New Mexicans can access the healthcare they need."

The two-day kickoff meeting had several attendees including: Lieutenant Governor Howie Morales and Representative Rodolpho "Rudy" S. Martinez.

"The program announced by the Human Services Department today is very exciting for New Mexico's communities, and will make a major, positive impact on rural health. I worked in healthcare for a decade in remote Southwest New Mexico, and I can attest to the critical shortages in our rural health workforce. Frankly, it's a crisis. People in rural areas of our state face more challenges, like hour-long drives to see doctors, waiting weeks or months to see a specialist, and access to affordable care. We applaud Gov. Lujan Grisham and the Legislature for stepping up to provide real help that is long overdue," said Lieutenant Governor Howie Morales.

"It's apparent Secretary Scrase and this board are committed to finding innovative solutions which can be implemented immediately to move our state in the direction it needs to ensure quality healthcare access for all New Mexicans. I'm very encouraged," said Representative Rodolpho "Rudy" S. Martinez.

The GME Expansion Review Board and Advisory Group are responsible for developing a state strategic plan for expanding graduate medical education training programs, reviewing grant applications and the grants awarded pursuant to the GME Expansion Grant Program Act. A priority will be given to expanding programs and providers in rural and frontier communities, and to programs serving historically underserved communities, including Medicaid beneficiaries.

"I'm proud to serve as chair of the Graduate Medical Education Expansion Review Board," said Dave Rakel, M.D., professor and chair of UNM School of Family and Community Medicine. "Together with my colleagues, we have an opportunity to not only improve access to high-quality primary care, but to do so in a way that promotes individual and community resiliency."

The members of the board and advisory group include representatives from:

- Human Services Department
- Higher Education Department
- Hospitals, primary care consortiums and medical organizations
- Osteopathic and allopathic professional societies and associations.

"I am deeply gratified to see physician leaders and other leaders from all over the state working closely and collaboratively together to make a dramatic improvement in access to physicians specializing in primary care," said David R. Scrase, M.D. Cabinet Secretary for the New Mexico Human Services Department.

#30#

Office of the Secretary 1474 Rodeo Rd. P.O Box 2348 Santa Fe, NM 87504 505-827-7750