



NEW MEXICO HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT
P.O. Box 2348
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-2348

Bill Richardson
Governor

Pamela S. Hyde, J.D.
Secretary

*For further information contact Betina Gonzales McCracken
Communications Director 505.827.6245 or 505.699.4675*

For Immediate Release

Governor Richardson Challenges his Appointed Health Care Task Force with Finding Coverage and Access for all New Mexicans

Santa Fe, July 21, 2003 – Governor Bill Richardson today announced his appointments to the Governor’s Health Care Coverage and Access Task Force. “Ensuring that affordable health care is available to all New Mexicans is a key goal of my administration,” said Governor Richardson. “The Task Force will help us make this a reality.”

The Task Force is being led by Human Services Department Secretary Pamela Hyde and Department of Health Secretary Patricia Montoya and co-chaired by Mr. James Hinton, President/CEO of Presbyterian Health Services, and Ms. Ellen Leitzer, founder and co-director of the Senior citizens Law Office, Inc. and Vice President and founder of Health Action New Mexico. Other members include health care providers, business leaders, advocates, legislators, insurers and consumers. “We have a lot to accomplish before we report back to the Governor October 1st,” said Secretary Hyde.

Many of the people who have been participating in the Uninsured Stakeholder Group meetings have been appointed to the Task Force. That group reviewed and discussed a report, *A Proposed Health Care Agenda for New Mexico*, created using ideas from their meetings and input from public meetings throughout the state. “There’s a lot of work that’s already done,” said Secretary Montoya. “We’ll incorporate those efforts into the process of the task force to help draw conclusions and find workable solutions.”

“The Task Force will play a big role in identifying key strategies and crafting legislation,” said Governor Richardson.

-More-

The Task Force will meet for three full days before the governor's reporting deadline of October 1st. The first meeting is scheduled for July 31st, the second August 28th and the third September 25th, all at the Albuquerque Convention Center, 401 Second St., NW.

Attached is the list of those appointed to the Governor's Health Care Coverage and Access Task Force.