



**NEW MEXICO
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CYFD Secretary
Michelle Lujan-Grisham, J.D.
ALTCD Secretary

**Governor's Health Care Coverage and Access Task Force is
Working under Tight Deadline**
(Special E-Mail Set up for Public Comments)

Santa Fe, August 7, 2003 - The first of three meetings of the Governor's appointed Health Care Coverage and Access (HCCA) Task Force set some guidelines, and tight deadlines to report back to the Governor. "Recommendations made by the Task Force and the Steering Committee must be given to the Governor for review by October 1st," said Human Services Department (HSD) Secretary Pamela Hyde. "That's not a lot of time, but with the direction laid out at last week's first meeting we believe we can get this done."

The ultimate goal of the HCCA Task Force is to address health care needs through insurance coverage and access issues, as resources allow. "A combination of public and private approaches will be necessary," said Department of Health (DOH) Secretary Patricia Montoya. "Not to mention all policies and actions must be financially viable." Priority populations of the HCCA Task Force include; eligible children, parents/guardians of Medicaid eligible children and low income working adults.

"This Task Force represents all the areas and sectors that we need to really do what's right for New Mexicans - health insurance coverage for all New Mexicans and assurance that access to quality healthcare is possible for everyone in our state," said Governor Bill Richardson. Recommendations from the HCCA Task Force could help the Governor decide when to call a

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Gov's Health Care Task Force.....Add 1

special session specifically to address the state's health care needs.

The public can give their input to the HCCA Task Force through an e-mail address specifically set up for comments. The address is hcca.comments@state.nm.us <<mailto:hcca.comments@state.nm.us>>. The next two meetings of the HCCA Task Force are August 28th, and September 25th, both at the Albuquerque Convention Center from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.