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**For Immediate Release**

**Secretary Pamela Hyde Announces Bernalillo County's New Mexico Works  
Program will be Brought In-House Temporarily**  
(Joint Decision between UNM and HSD)

*Santa Fe, November 4, 2004* – Today Secretary Pamela Hyde and Dean Rita Martinez-Purson are announcing that the Human Services Department (HSD) will be running the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) New Mexico Works program for Bernalillo County beginning January 1, 2005 through June 30, 2005 (6 months). “The most important thing to note about this change is that clients will not be affected by the change. It will be an invisible and seamless handoff from UNM to HSD,” said Hyde.

HSD is reorganizing the statewide TANF-NM Works program to better serve its clients with greater efficiency and more one-stop opportunities. The change in Bernalillo County is an interim step in the process. “Our goals are to help clients develop work skills, job training and education, and that means more coordination with other agencies, specifically the Office of Workforce Training and Development (OWTD),” said Katie Falls, HSD’s Income Support Division Director.

The UNM Career Works program has provided job placement, career development, training and referrals to some 3,000 low-income clients under the TANF program for six years. “The University of New Mexico is honored to be a partner in this program with the state of New Mexico,” said Dr. Rita Martinez-Purson, Dean of Continuing Education at UNM. “We support the statewide plan for the reorganization, and are working in partnership with the New Mexico Human Services Department toward a seamless transition of services in order to assure continuity for clients and staff.”

That coordination began with a pilot project for FY 2005 in the Eastern part of the state . For FY 2006 (by July 1, 2005) and beyond, HSD will coordinate TANF funding with the federal Work Force Investment Act (WIA), the OWTD and local workforce development boards.

The majority of the staff at UNM have an opportunity to continue to work with the TANF New Mexico Works clients by becoming temporary HSD employees, as the Department takes over the program for this interim period.

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