



**NEW MEXICO
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Governor

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Human Services Department Secretary
Michelle Lujan Grisham, J.D.
Department of Health Secretary-designate

For Immediate Release

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**Naomi Judd Keynote Speaker at Conference to Develop Awareness about
Substance Abuse and Related Domestic Violence**
(Clients and Providers of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Target of Message)

Santa Fe, September 10, 2004 –The New Mexico Departments of Health and Human Services are encouraging TANF clients and providers to attend “Empower New Mexico”, a conference to raise awareness about the direct link between substance abuse and domestic violence. “Sometimes people don’t recognize the link between the two, which may keep them from achieving more in life,” said Pamela Hyde, Human Services Department Secretary. “The conference is created to educate and encourage TANF clients to learn more about the link and become more self sufficient.”

Country music star Naomi Judd is the featured keynote speaker at the conference. Judd will share her personal experiences about raising two small children as a single parent while being a victim of domestic violence as a result of her relationship with a substance abuser. “Naomi’s story will hit home with many of those attending the conference,” said Michelle Lujan Grisham, Department of Health Secretary-designee. “We hope many walk away with a fresh understanding of how substance abuse and related domestic violence may affect their own lives and if needed, get the help they need.”

Lieutenant Governor Diane Denish and First Lady Barbara Richardson will also speak at the conference and discuss the impact of substance abuse on New Mexico families. “This is a children’s issue,” said Denish. “It’s important to think about the children in these families and do everything in our power to help change their lives.”

The First Lady was instrumental in the formation of Governor Bill Richardson’s Domestic Violence Advisory Board and serves as its Chairperson. “This is a good opportunity to continue our efforts and let it be known that we will no longer let domestic violence and its effects go unnoticed and untreated,” said Barbara Richardson.

**The one-day conference will be held at the Albuquerque Convention Center on Thursday, September 16, 2004. It is free for TANF clients, while the cost to providers is \$75. Applications are available at UNM Continuing Education, 500 Copper NW in Albuquerque or online at <http://www.speakerslive.com/upcomingseminars.htm>.
Deadline to apply is Monday, September 13 at noon.**

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