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For Immediate Release

Health Coverage for New Mexicans Committee to Hear From Finalists to Analyze Health Coverage Models that Close the Uninsured Gap in New Mexico

Santa Fe, New Mexico, November 29, 2006 – The Health Coverage for New Mexicans Committee (Committee) will have its final meeting of the year tomorrow from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the State Capitol in Santa Fe, room 322.

The Committee will hear oral presentations from three finalists that bid on the Request for Proposals (RFP) to conduct a financial analysis of the three health coverage models chosen by the Committee last month. The three models chosen take different approaches at ensuring health care coverage for all New Mexicans. The models are:

1. The Health Security Act, which is a single plan administered by a commission appointed by the Governor,
2. The New Mexico Health Choices Plan, which is a market-based universal coverage plan that would utilize vouchers provided to individuals, and
3. The New Mexico Health Coverage Plan, which builds on the current public/private health care system in the state, including a requirement that everyone have insurance with a clear role for employers.

The 23-member Committee, plus four advisors, appointed by the Governor and the Legislative leadership, selected these models from several presented to them.

The successful financial analysis bidder will be asked to submit a written report and present testimony on their analysis to the Committee and around the state in the spring and summer of 2007. The analysis will consider the costs of the models to employers, the state, individuals and health care companies.

The Committee will select a bidder by December 5 and begin contract negotiations. The contract effective date will begin December 15.

Based on the analysis findings, the Committee will make recommendations to the Governor and Legislature for next steps during the 2008 regular legislative session.

Attached is the agenda for the November 30 meeting.

(more)

Health Coverage for New Mexicans Committee

8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. – Thursday, November 30, 2006

**Room 322, State Capitol Building
490 Old Santa Fe Trail, SANTA FE**

AGENDA

- 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.** EXECUTIVE SESSION (Committee Only)
Presentation of Reviewed Proposals, Proposal Technical Review Team
- 9:30 – 9:45 a.m.** Welcome, Review of Agenda and Approval of Minutes
Lieutenant Governor Diane Denish
- 9:45 – 10:15 a.m.** Presentation of Proposal, Finalist
- 10:15 – 11:00 a.m.** Questions from Committee
- 11:00 – 11:15 a.m.** BREAK
- 11:15 – 11:45 p.m.** Presentation of Proposal, Finalist
- 11:45 – 12:30 p.m.** Questions from Committee
- 12:30 – 1:00 p.m.** LUNCH BREAK (Committee may order sandwiches for delivery)
- 1:00 – 1:30 p.m.** Presentation of Proposal, Finalist
- 1:30 – 2:15 p.m.** Questions from Committee
- 2:15 – 3:15 p.m.** EXECUTIVE SESSION (Committee Only)
Discussion of Proposals, Committee and Proposal Technical Review Team
- 3:15 – 3:30 p.m.** BREAK
- 3:30 – 4:00 p.m.** Public Discussion of Proposals, Committee and General Public Input
- 4:00 – 4:30 p.m.** Final Comments and Next Steps
Secretary Pam Hyde and Raul Burciaga
- 4:30 p.m.** ADJOURN

ALL MEETINGS WILL BE RECORDED (excluding Executive Sessions)

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