



**NEW MEXICO
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Lieutenant Governor

Pamela S. Hyde, J.D.
Human Services Department Secretary
Michelle Lujan Grisham, J.D.
Department of Health Secretary
Dorian Dodson
Children, Youth and Families Department Secretary designate
Deborah Armstrong, P.T., J.D.
Aging and Long-Term Services Department Secretary
Benny Shendo Jr.
NM Indian Affairs Department Secretary

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For Immediate Release

**State-Tribal Health and Human Services Summit Set for Wednesday,
December 20**

**New Mexico's 22 Indian Tribes Invited to Attend Second Annual Meeting with State
Health and Human Services Department Secretaries**

Santa Fe, December 15, 2006 – The State Health and Human Services and Indian Affairs Departments are hosting the second Indian Health and Human Services Consultation Summit on Wednesday, December 20 in Albuquerque at the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center, 2401 12th Street, N.W. from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The purpose of the meeting is to gather final input from all of New Mexico's 22 tribes on developing a Health and Human Services State-Tribal Consultation Protocol. "It is important to establish a good working relationship between the state and the tribes," said Secretary Pamela Hyde, Human Services Department. "A good relationship between the government-to-government agencies is key to ensuring New Mexico families get the services they need, whether on state or tribal land."

In November 2005 the Health and Human Services Departments held their first protocol meeting following Governor Bill Richardson's Executive Order, mandating that the Executive State Agencies adopt pilot tribal consultation plans with the input of the 22 New Mexico Tribes. Wednesday's meeting is a follow up to that meeting to finalize the protocol. "The final protocol will serve as the process to follow when the Health and Human Services Departments develop or change policies, programs or activities that have tribal implications," said Secretary designate Dorian Dodson, Children, Youth and Families Department.

Issues to be covered by the protocol once it is finalized may include access to physical and behavioral health services, prevention, Medicaid, elders and children and adolescent health care.

New Mexico's state agency participants include Secretary Hyde, Secretary Dodson, Secretary Michelle Grisham, Department of Health, Secretary Debbie Armstrong, Aging and Long-term Services Department, and Benny Shendo Jr., NM Indian Affairs Department.

Tribal members interested in attending the summit are encouraged to pre-register by calling Terrelene Massey, Native American Liaison with the Human Services Department at 1-505-827-7751

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