



New Mexico
Higher Education Department



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For Immediate Release

Cabinet Secretaries to Visit Silver City Friday to Hear from Residents About Health, Social Services and Education Needs

Children's Cabinet Town Hall in Las Cruces on Thursday Evening

Santa Fe, April 3, 2006 - The New Mexico Cabinet Secretaries of Health, Human Services, Children, Youth and Families, Aging and Long-Term Services, Public Education, and Higher Education Departments will visit Silver City Friday, April 7 as part of the spring tour to hear from New Mexicans about issues in their communities.

The *Healthy New Mexico* meeting will be held from 1:30 to 4 p.m. at the Western New Mexico Campus, Light Hall, located at 1000 College.

The meetings began March 22 in Raton, and continue through June 1 in Albuquerque, visiting 14 different towns in between. "The Richardson Administration is committed to reaching and assisting as many communities as possible," said Pamela Hyde, Human Services Department Secretary. "Every community has different issues, and we'd like to find out how we can best serve the people of those communities."

Back in 2003, the Health, Human Services, Children, Youth and Families, and Aging and Long-Term Services Departments, together with the Lieutenant Governor, embarked on a similar tour of Town Hall meetings. During those meetings New Mexico residents gave input on four health and human services initiatives: A statewide comprehensive health plan, a behavioral health plan for children, a long-term care plan for seniors and disabled individuals and the Medicaid system redesign. “We’re coming back to update the New Mexico citizens about what we’ve accomplished since our last tour and to hear about their concerns and priorities. We look forward to receiving input about what more needs to be done to improve the quality of life for New Mexicans,” said Michelle Lujan Grisham, Department of Health Secretary.

Two of the meetings will be Children’s Cabinet-specific Town Hall meetings, led by Lieutenant Governor Diane D. Denish, including the one in Las Cruces on Thursday April 6 from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at the NMSU Golf Course Club House.

The remaining meetings will be *A Healthy New Mexico* Town Hall meetings and will provide an opportunity for communities to discuss a broad range of topics. “*A Healthy New Mexico* incorporates everything from immunizations, early childhood education, behavioral health, higher education, hunger and protecting vulnerable populations,” said Deborah Armstrong, Aging and Long-Term Services Department Secretary.

The spring meetings will give Health and Human Services and Education Departments an opportunity to detail Governor Richardson’s *Year of the Child* initiatives, which made great progress during this year’s regular legislation session. “Important progress involving *Healthy Kids*, *Keeping Kids Safe Agenda*, and *Making Schools Work - Closing the Achievement Gap* are just the beginning and we pledge to continue these efforts,” said Dr. Veronica C. García, Public Education Department Secretary.

New Mexicans interested in Health and Human Services and Education issues in their community are encouraged to attend.

***Thursday, April 6, 6-8:30 p.m. Las Cruces, NMSU, Golf Course Club House**

Friday, April 7, 1:30-4 p.m. Silver City, WNMU, Light Hall

Thursday, April 20, 1:30-4 p.m. Navajo Nation, Shiprock Chapter House

Thursday, April 20, 6-8:30 p.m. Farmington City Building, 3041 East Main

Friday, April 21, 1:30-4 p.m. Grants, Cibola County Convention Center

Wednesday, April 26, 6-8:30 p.m. Alamogordo, Civic Center, Main Hall

Thursday, April 27, 1:30-4 p.m. Mescalero, Inn of the Mountain Gods

Friday, April 28, 9-11:30 a.m. Socorro, New Mexico Tech, Galena Room

***Wednesday, May 17, 6-8:30 p.m. Roswell, ENMU, Occupational Tech Center, Room 124**

Thursday, May 18, 1:30-4 p.m. Clovis, Clovis Community College, 417 Schepps Blvd

Friday, May 19, 9-11:30 a.m. Tucumcari, Convention Center

Wednesday, May 31, 1:30-4 p.m. Albuquerque, TVI Workforce Training Center, 5600 Eagle Rock

Thursday, June 1, 9-11:30 a.m. Albuquerque, Indian Pueblo Cultural Center, 2401 12th Street NW

*** Indicates Children’s Cabinet Town Hall**

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