



Bill Richardson
Governor

NEW MEXICO HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT
P.O. Box 2348
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-2348

Pamela S. Hyde, J.D.
Secretary

Contact Betina Gonzales McCracken 505 827-6245 or 505 699-4675
For Immediate Release

Committee to Receive Estimated Costs of Health Plans To Bring Universal Coverage to New Mexico

Santa Fe, New Mexico, May 14, 2007 – The Health Coverage for New Mexicans Committee (Committee) will receive further information, including the estimated costs of the three health coverage models the Committee chose for analysis. Mathematica Policy Research, Inc. (Mathematica) will present to the Committee on Wednesday, May 16, 2007 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in Room 103 at the CNM Workforce Training Center, 5600 Eagle Rock Ave. NE in Albuquerque.

Last month the Committee, which is chaired by Lieutenant Governor Diane Denish, received a background report from Mathematica's explaining the methodology of the extensive quantitative and comparative report that will be presented. At Wednesday's meeting, Mathematica will present the estimated health services and administrative costs under each plan scenario.

The analysis will consider the costs of the models to employers, the state, individuals and health care organizations, while weighing them against options such as taking no action at all. The three models take different approaches to providing a comprehensive health insurance or universal 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 is also a market-based approach that preserves roles for both public and private health care systems and includes a requirement that everyone obtain insurance with a clear cut role for employers.

The 23-member Committee and four advisors appointed by the Governor and the Legislative leadership will also discuss "next steps" as the Committee is charged with reporting back to the Governor and Legislature recommendations to move forward.

The final report from Mathematica will be presented during a June 21, 2007 meeting in Room 322 of the State Capitol Building in Santa Fe.

Wednesday's meeting agenda, which includes two opportunities for public input, is below:

(more)

**Health Coverage for New Mexicans Committee
9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. – Wednesday, May 16, 2007
Room 103, CNM (formerly TVI) Workforce Training Center
5600 Eagle Rock Ave NE, ALBUQUERQUE**

DRAFT AGENDA

- 9:00 – 9:15 a.m.** **Welcome, Review of Agenda, Approval of 11/30/06 & 4/26/07 Minutes**
- **Lieutenant Governor Diane Denish**
- 9:15 – 10:15 a.m.** **Discussion Regarding Next Steps**
- **Ruby Ann Esquibel and Raul Burciaga, Presentation of HCNMC Questionnaire Results**
 - **Lieutenant Governor Diane Denish, Discussion Facilitator**
- 10:15 – 10:45 a.m.** **Public Input**
- 10:45 – 11:00 a.m.** **BREAK**
- 11:00 – 11:30 a.m.** **Methods for Estimating Health Services and Administrative Costs**
- **Dr. Deborah Chollet, Mathematica Policy Research Inc.**
- 11:30 – 12:15 p.m.** **Questions of Mathematica from Committee Members**
- 12:15 – 12:45 p.m.** **LUNCH BREAK (Committee members may order lunch)**
- 12:45 – 1:15 p.m.** **Estimated Cost of the Three Health Care Reform Models**
- **Dr. Deborah Chollet, Mathematica Policy Research Inc.**
- 1:15 – 2:00 p.m.** **Questions of Mathematica from Committee Members**
- 2:00 – 2:30 p.m.** **Stakeholder Impact: Providers and Consumers**
- **Dr. Deborah Chollet, Mathematica Policy Research Inc.**
- 2:30 – 2:45 p.m.** **BREAK**
- 2:45 – 3:15 p.m.** **Public Input**
- 3:15 – 3:30 p.m.** **Mathematica Response to Public Input**
- 3:30 – 4:15 p.m.** **Questions of Mathematica from Committee Members**
- 4:15 – 5:00 p.m.** **Further Discussion Regarding Next Steps**
- **Next Meeting on June 21 (Santa Fe)**
- 5:00 p.m.** **ADJOURN**

All Meetings Will Be Recorded

###