



## NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

**Bill Richardson**  
Governor

**Dr. Alfredo Vigil**  
Department of Health Secretary  
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### **New Mexico Departments of Health and Human Services Receive Answers about St. Vincent Transaction with CHRISTUS**

*Santa Fe, New Mexico* – The New Mexico Department of Health and the Human Services Department have received answers to dozens of questions they asked about the impending transaction between St. Vincent Regional Hospital and CHRISTUS Health and are satisfied with the answers received at this point. “We appreciate the cooperation, time and effort both St. Vincent and CHRISTUS have given the state in answering all the questions we have had about the business relationship between the two groups, as well as with other entities responsible for service delivery in Santa Fe” said Pamela Hyde, HSD Secretary.

The proposed business relationship between St. Vincent and CHRISTUS was scheduled to be finalized in late March. However, due to questions asked by the two state departments, the two groups agreed to delay finalizing the agreement. “Their responsiveness and willingness to delay in order to explain how this change is going to work, we believe, shows the spirit of cooperation this partnership will bring to New Mexico,” said Hyde.

The two state departments met with leaders and board members from St. Vincent and CHRISTUS over several weeks to determine exactly how the structure and business relationship between the two groups will work and how services will be affected. “While there is no way to answer every question that might arise in a transaction as big, critical and important to the community as this one, we are comfortable at this point that the two groups have done everything they can to assure that services that are currently available, will continue to be available in Santa Fe,” said Dr. Alfredo Vigil, Health Secretary.

Of particular interest to community groups that have brought their concerns to the state is whether or not CHRISTUS, a Catholic organization, will impose religious views on individuals receiving care at St. Vincent. “CHRISTUS and the St. Vincent board have assured the state that St. Vincent will continue to respect the individual needs of community members who want services in a way that might be different from the Catholic perspective,” said Hyde. “We have been given information that indicates that mechanisms have been developed to assure that family planning and reproductive services will continue to be available within the hospital and within the community, and that no changes to practices regarding end-of-life care and patient decision-making will occur that will prevent individuals from having their health care wishes respected.”

The closing of the transaction between St. Vincent and CHRISTUS is now expected to take place soon. “We want to welcome CHRISTUS to New Mexico and appreciate their commitment and their tremendous financial and service investment in the health care of northern New Mexico,” said Dr. Vigil. St. Vincent and CHRISTUS have agreed to keep working with the state as the partnership unfolds, as well as continue to allow for public input.

CHRISTUS will contribute financial resources through this partnership that will allow St. Vincent to pay off its debts and expand the health care delivery system in Santa Fe County, as well as providing funding for a new non-profit whose function is support of the hospital and advocacy for health care services.

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