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**Bill Richardson**  
*Governor*

**Pamela S. Hyde, J.D.**  
*Secretary*

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**For Immediate Release**

## **New Mexico Human Services Department Uncovers and Stops Internet Hackers**

*Santa Fe, New Mexico* – The New Mexico Human Services Department has uncovered and stopped unauthorized access to one of the department’s websites. As a result, Governor Bill Richardson has ordered a complete assessment of the computer hacking incident to protect private client information from future attacks.

The HSD Information Technology Division (ITD) staff and the department’s internal auditors discovered the unauthorized use of the website approximately two weeks ago and immediately took all precautions to stop any further intrusions.

“Our team worked quickly to stop the misuse of the department’s website and immediately enlisted the services of a forensic team to preserve evidence should there be a need for prosecution later,” said Pamela Hyde, HSD Secretary

The department is working closely with the state’s Department of Information Technology and is in contact with the Federal Bureau of Investigation for further investigation.

“We are pleased that alert employees discovered and shut down this unauthorized use,” said Roy Soto, Secretary of the Department of Information Technology. “We are constantly on alert for potential security abuses, as the number of attempted hacking of state, federal and corporate information technology systems is increasing nationwide.”

A detailed investigation is on-going. Human Services Department staff and forensic investigators are assessing the status of client and other critical information to ensure that the information needed to provide services for New Mexicans is secure and that the parties responsible for this unauthorized entry on the department’s website are identified and held accountable.

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