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Governor Bill Richardson Congratulates Pamela Hyde on Senate Confirmation of Administrator of Federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Agency

Governor Appoints Katie Falls as Secretary of the Human Services Department

SANTA FE– Governor Bill Richardson today congratulated Human Services Department Secretary Pamela Hyde on her U.S. Senate confirmation to be the Administrator of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration with the U.S. Health and Human Services Department.

“Pam Hyde served New Mexicans well as, and now she will use that same hard work and dedication to behavioral health issues to serve all Americans. I wish her the best of luck,” Governor Richardson said.

Governor Bill Richardson is appointing Katie Falls as the Secretary of the Human Services Department. Falls will be nominated to the State Senate for confirmation during the January 2010 Legislature.

“Katie has already rolled up her sleeves and has been serving as Acting Secretary over the past two months. She is extremely dedicated to the mission of the Human Services Department in ensuring New Mexicans are receiving the services they need to make ends meet each month,” said Governor Richardson.

Governor Richardson appointed Falls as Deputy Secretary of Programs for the Human Services Department in January 2006. She has been with the department since 2003 where she served as director of the Income of the Income Support Division before being named Deputy Secretary. Falls also worked for the Department of Health from 1995 to 2001 where she served as the Deputy Director of the Division of Health Improvement. She also worked for Navajo Indian Health Services and Albuquerque Indian Health Services from 1990 to 1995.

Governor Richardson is appointing and promoting Charissa Saavedra, current Child Support Enforcement Division Director to Deputy Secretary of Programs of the Human

Services Department. “Charissa will bring her extensive knowledge of child support services with her as she oversees the Income Support, Medical Assistance and Behavioral Health Service divisions,” said Governor Richardson.

Saavedra has worked with the Human Services Department since 1990, except for a two year period, 2005 – 2007, when she worked for the Second Judicial District Court as a program director for the child support hearing officer program and the domestic violence division.

The Human Services Department’s Deputy Secretary of Finance, Daryl Schwebach will continue to serve in that position. Schwebach has been with the Human Services Department since 2003, first as Director of the Administrative Services Division and was then promoted by Governor Richardson to Deputy Secretary of Finance in July, 2005.

“This is a very strong team that will work well together to continue to serve the hundreds of thousands of New Mexican who rely on the Human Services Department each and every day,” said Governor Richardson.

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