



For Immediate Release
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Governor Bill Richardson Establishes the New Mexico Office of Health Care Reform

SANTA FE—Governor Bill Richardson has signed an Executive Order establishing the New Mexico Office of Health Care Reform and expanding the Health Care Reform Leadership Team. Both will be instrumental in implementing the state’s plan for the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act passed by Congress earlier this year.

“Implementing the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act is a very big task and must be done carefully to ensure all New Mexicans will benefit from health care reform,” said Governor Bill Richardson. “The Office of Health Care Reform will collaborate with the expanded Leadership Team to lead the executive branch in establishing policies, priorities, and objectives for state government’s comprehensive effort in reaching our goals for implementation.”

Last month, Governor Richardson concurred with several recommendations contained in the Health Care Reform Leadership Team’s strategic plan, *Implementing Federal Health Care Reform – A Roadmap for New Mexico*. These included creating an Office of Health Care Reform within the New Mexico Human Services Department that would use existing staff resources and expanding the Leadership Team created earlier this year and chaired by HSD Secretary Katie Falls.

The expansion includes six additional members:

- The Secretary of the Department of Finance and Administration,
- The Secretary of the Public Education Department,
- The Secretary of the Higher Education Department,
- The Director of the Risk Management Division of the General Services Department,
- The Director of the Workers’ Compensation Administration, and
- The Director of the Women’s Health Advisory Council.

The expanded Leadership Team has scheduled its first meeting, which is August 18, 2010 in Santa Fe from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at 37 Plaza la Prensa. The public is welcome.

The Office of Health Care Reform is required to report to the Governor no later than November 1, 2010 regarding legislative proposals needed to implement health care reform in New Mexico for the 2011 legislative session

The text of the Executive Order follows:

EXECUTIVE ORDER 2010-032

ESTABLISHING THE NEW MEXICO OFFICE OF HEALTH CARE REFORM AND EXPANDING THE HEALTH CARE REFORM LEADERSHIP TEAM TO FACILITATE IMPLEMENTATION OF FEDERAL HEALTH CARE REFORM

WHEREAS, on March 23, 2010, President Barack Obama signed into law H.R. 3590, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148);

WHEREAS, New Mexico state government must provide clear leadership and accountability to ensure successful implementation of federal health care reform, which will require cooperation across traditional lines of agency and department responsibility;

WHEREAS, as directed by Executive Order 2010-012, the Health Care Reform Leadership Team completed and submitted to the Governor an initial strategic plan titled *Implementing Federal Health Care Reform—A Roadmap for New Mexico*. The strategic plan is available to the public at the New Mexico Human Services Department website at the following link:

<http://www.hsd.state.nm.us/pdf/hcr/NM%20Federal%20Health%20Care%20Reform%20Strategic%20Plan%207-12-10%20FINAL.pdf>; and

WHEREAS, I concurred with the following recommendations contained in the strategic plan:

1. Continue convening the Health Care Reform Leadership Team to assure coordination across state agencies, report directly to the Office of the Governor, and be accountable for recommendations made to the Executive.
2. Expand membership of the Health Care Reform Leadership Team to include representation from the Higher Education Department, Public Education Department, Department of Finance and Administration, General Services Department, Risk Management Division, the Women's Health Advisory Council, and the Workers' Compensation Administration.
3. Create an Office of Health Care Reform, within the Human Services Department, to plan, coordinate, and administer implementation of federal health care reform in conjunction with the Health Care Reform Leadership Team.

4. Determine whether state laws may be amended or enacted in order to achieve compliance with the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.
5. Conduct tribal consultation regarding health care reform initiatives and policies that will impact American Indians.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Bill Richardson, Governor of the State of New Mexico, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and Laws of New Mexico, do hereby order the following:

1. I hereby establish the New Mexico Office of Health Care Reform (“Office”) within the New Mexico Human Services Department. The Office shall work in collaboration with and at the direction of the New Mexico Health Care Reform Leadership Team to lead the executive branch in establishing policies, priorities, and objectives for state government's comprehensive effort to continue implementation of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and to improve access to health care, the quality of health care, and ensure the long term sustainability of New Mexico’s health care system.
2. I further order the New Mexico Health Care Reform Leadership Team (“Leadership Team”) to continue the tasks set forth in Executive Order 2010-012. The Leadership Team shall be expanded to include the following additional members:
 - a. The Secretary of the Department of Finance and Administration;
 - b. The Secretary of the Public Education Department;
 - c. The Secretary of the Higher Education Department;
 - d. The Director of the Risk Management Division of the General Services Department;
 - e. The Director of the Workers’ Compensation Administration; and
 - f. The Director of the Women’s Health Advisory Council.
3. The principal functions of the Office shall be to assist the Leadership Team to:
 - a. Provide leadership and accountability for implementation of state and federal health care reform;
 - b. Ensure that state government policy decisions and programs are consistent with the requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act;
 - c. Provide advice, guidance, and specific recommendations to the Governor with respect to implementation of state health initiatives and federal health care reform;
 - d. Maintain open dialogue, transparency, engagement by the public, and strategic partnerships with key stakeholder organizations;
 - e. Share information and coordinate efforts with the Health Care Reform Working Group called for by the 2010 regular session Senate Joint Memorial 1, interim legislative committees, standing committees of the Legislature, and their staffs;

- f. Share information and coordinate efforts with the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission's Division of Insurance so that delivery system improvements are coordinated with insurance reforms;
 - g. Coordinate public outreach activities conducted by executive departments and agencies designed to gather input from the public, from demonstration and pilot projects, and from public-private partnerships on the problems and priorities for policy measures designed to meet the goals contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act for improvement of the health care system;
 - h. Work with state, local, and community policymakers and public officials to expand coverage, improve quality and efficiency, and slow the growth of health costs;
 - i. Evaluate means to eliminate unnecessary legislative, regulatory, and other bureaucratic barriers that impede effective delivery of efficient and high-quality health care;
 - j. Identify all opportunities for New Mexico to receive federal funds under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act;
 - k. Integrate to the extent possible prevention/wellness strategies into all reform efforts;
 - l. Develop a financial model to estimate by year and by program the impact of the reform on the state general fund budget; and
 - m. Work to attract and retain the public health professionals needed to administer health care by encouraging investment in training programs, supplying more scholarships for healthcare workers, and improving the diversity of the workforce to create jobs in our local economy.
4. The Office shall be staffed by the Governor and the Secretary of the Human Services Department as necessary to carry out the provisions of this Order.
5. The Office and the Leadership Team shall report to the Governor no later than November 1, 2010 regarding legislative proposals for the 2011 legislative session.
6. In carrying out their responsibilities, the Office and the Leadership Team may:
 - a. Consult with experts in the field of health care and health care reform;
 - b. Conduct meetings and hold hearings;
 - c. Enter into necessary contracts through the Human Services Department or other appropriate state agencies; and
 - d. Establish and convene advisory workgroups including representatives of state and local agencies, providers, payers, consumers and other interested parties.
7. State agencies shall work cooperatively with the Office and the Leadership Team to provide any and all assistance required for the effective implementation of this Executive Order.

This Executive Order supersedes any other previous orders, proclamations, or directives in conflict with this Executive Order. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately and remain in effect until such time as it is rescinded by the Governor.

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