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**Bill Richardson**

**Kathryn Falls**

*Governor  
Secretary*

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For Immediate Release**

## **New Mexico Health Care Reform Leadership Team Reconvenes on Wednesday, August 18 in Santa Fe**

*Santa Fe* – Governor Bill Richardson’s Health Care Reform (HCR) Leadership Team is continuing its work in preparing the state for the implementation of health care reform, and will be meeting on Wednesday, August 18, 2010 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Human Services Department, located 37 Plaza la Prensa in Santa Fe.

Last month Governor Richardson accepted the Leadership Team’s Strategic Plan, *Implementing Federal Health Care Reform – A Roadmap for New Mexico* and directed the state to move forward with several recommendations in the plan, including the continuation of the Health Care Reform Leadership Team to assure coordination across state agencies. The Governor also agreed to expand membership of the Leadership Team to include representation from the Higher Education Department; Public Education Department; Department of Finance and Administration; General Services Department, Risk Management Division; Office of the Governor’s Council on Women’s Health; and the Workers’ Compensation Administration.

Other recommendations the Governor has directed the state to move forward with include:

- Develop New Mexico’s own strong health insurance exchange.
- Create an Office of Health Care Reform utilizing existing staff resources to plan, coordinate, and administer implementation of federal health care reform while reporting to the Health Care Reform Leadership Team.
- Host the Office of Health Care Reform at the Human Services Department
- Determine state statutes requiring amendment/enactment to be in compliance with the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act
- Conduct Tribal Consultation regarding health care reform initiatives and policies that will impact American Indians.

The agenda items for the August 18, 2010 meeting are:

- Review of Governor's Directives based on the Strategic Plan's Recommendations
- Workgroups' Reports
  - Grants Tracking
  - Legal
- Update and Discussion on NM's Exchange Planning Grant
- Input from Stakeholders and Public

The HCR Leadership Team was put together by Executive Order earlier this year, is chaired by Human Services Department Secretary Katie Falls and consists of several state agencies and offices.

The Strategic Plan, *Implementing Federal Health Care Reform – A Roadmap for New Mexico*, can be found on the HSD website at <http://www.hsd.state.nm.us/pdf/hcr/NM%20Federal%20Health%20Care%20Reform%20Strategic%20Plan%207-12-10%20FINAL.pdf>

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