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June 14, 2011
For Immediate Release

NM Human Services Department Invites Public Input on Medicaid Modernization

Hearings around the state are scheduled to begin on July 6th

Santa Fe – Today, the New Mexico Human Services Department released the full schedule of public input hearings on Medicaid modernization, scheduled to begin after the 4th of July holiday. The hearings will take place at seven different locations throughout the state. These hearings are designed to solicit input from the public on how the state can continue to protect and improve Medicaid services for New Mexicans who depend on them the most.

Six public input sessions and one state tribal consultation will be held at the following times and locations:

- July 6, 2011, 11:00a.m. to 1:00p.m. – Clovis – Clovis Civic Center, 801 Schepps Blvd. (Corner of Schepps & 7th)
- July 12, 2011, 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. – Farmington – San Juan College, Room 7103, 4601 College Blvd., Farmington
- July 26, 2011, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. – Roswell - Roswell Public Library, Bondurant Room, 301 N. Pennsylvania Ave., Roswell
- July 27, 2011, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. – Las Cruces – NM Farm and Ranch Museum Theater, 4100 Dripping Springs Rd., Las Cruces
- July 28, 2011, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. – Albuquerque – UNM Continuing Education Building, Rooms G & H, 1534 University Blvd NE, Albuquerque
- August 2, 2011, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. – Santa Fe – Willie Ortiz Building, 2600 Cerrillos Road, Santa Fe

- August 3, 2011, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. – Tribal Consultation , Albuquerque – Location TBD

“The discussions that we will undertake are a vital piece of our efforts and responsibility to ensure that Medicaid continues to serve New Mexicans well, both now and for generations to come,” said Human Services Department Secretary Sidonie Squier. “By including public input in the process, we ensure that our Medicaid system is tailored to meet the specific needs and challenges facing New Mexicans. We look forward to traveling the state and engaging in this important dialogue.”

New Mexico’s Medicaid programs currently serve more than 550,000 New Mexicans, the majority of which (335,000) are children. The Fiscal Year 2012 budget is \$3.75 billion dollars (state and federal funding). With the implementation of federal health care reform, it is estimated that an additional 130,000 to 175,000 will qualify for the program.

“This process will build on the commitment Governor Martinez made to provide essential health care services to the most vulnerable in our state, as was demonstrated in her decision to increase Medicaid funding by \$10 million in her executive budget earlier this year,” concluded Squier.

A Frequently Asked Questions paper, with more details about the Medicaid Modernization Plan and next steps, along with the schedule of public input sessions, are posted on the HSD website at www.hsd.state.nm.us/MedicaidModernization.

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