**May 10, 2012**

**For Immediate Release**

**HSD Selects Contractor to Assist in Exchange Development**

**SANTA FE –** The New Mexico Human Services Department (HSD) has selected, through a competitive RFP process, Leavitt Partners to assist with grant applications, technical aspects, and overall development of a state based health insurance exchange (HIX) for New Mexico.

“This is a good step forward for New Mexico as we continue to develop a state based exchange,” said Human Services Department Secretary Sidonie Squier. “The firm brings first-hand knowledge of how to build and operate an exchange. I look forward to working with the top notch talent and expertise that Leavitt Partners will bring to the table during the course of this engagement.”

"New Mexico’s commitment to establishing a market-driven insurance exchange demonstrates a willingness to apply a state solution to a long-standing problem,” said Mike Leavitt, founder and chairman of Leavitt Partners. “We look forward to working with Secretary Squier and her team.”

The contract period will begin immediately and will last for the next twelve months. Leavitt Partners will be assisting HSD with the main components of developing a state based health insurance exchange. Leavitt Partners will be assigned the following tasks:

* Developing a strategic plan and implementation activities to include further stakeholder consultation, health insurance market reforms, and business operations of the exchange
* Assist with the planning and development of an application for grants to the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
* Assist with the development of rules, regulations, and policy governing the HIX
* Assist in preparing reports and materials required by HHS pursuant to the Level 1 grant award

During the New Mexico engagement, Leavitt Partners will leverage the experience they’ve had in other states with similar challenges to help develop the best path forward.

**About Leavitt Partners**

Leavitt Partners is a health intelligence business. Its Health Insurance Exchange Intelligence Team advises states, health insurance payers, technology vendors and trade organizations. The team includes individuals who have led significant portions of the federal government’s health financing and regulatory system, as well as those who have been on the cutting edge of state health system reform. This deep background in understanding the policy issues, technical requirements and infrastructure associated with operating an exchange provides critical support for exchange development.