**January 11, 2012**

**For Immediate Release**

**HSD to Open SCI for Limited Population**

*Additional 5,000 New Mexicans to Receive Low Cost Healthcare*

*Through an Innovative Pilot Project*

**SANTA FE –** The Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) has approved a proposal for the Human Services Department (HSD) to work collaboratively with the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center (UNMHSC) and Molina Healthcare of New Mexico to establish a patient-centered medical home pilot project for State Coverage Insurance (SCI) members receiving services through UNMHSC. Since 2007, UNMHSC has partnered with Molina Healthcare to provide the SCI program for eligible patients seeking healthcare through UNMHSC. The program currently serves approximately 9,000 members. This new project will allow HSD to open the waiting list for SCI with some restrictions.

The patient-centered medical home pilot will provide a specific management model of care that focuses on improving significant, chronic conditions including diabetes, depression, hypertension, hyperlipidemia, obesity, and metabolic syndrome.

“ We are fortunate to have the opportunity to offer low-cost health insurance to another 5,000 New Mexicans in the UNMHSC service area,” said HSD Secretary Sidonie Squier. “This project will help with increased care coordination and case management of members who are enrolled. To this end, we hope to see improved health outcomes, better coordination and use of medications, and fewer visits to emergency rooms.”

UNMHSC’s existing SCI membership will be screened for participation in the medical home pilot. Additionally, HSD will offer enrollment opportunities to individuals on the SCI waiting list who reside in the UNMHSC service area, which includes Bernalillo, Sandoval, Torrance and Valencia counties.

HSD expects to enroll 5,000 new individuals from the SCI waiting list into the UNMHSC SCI program starting in March 2012. HSD will contact waiting list members within the identified counties according to their placement on the waiting list. Individuals will be sent an SCI application specific for the UNMHSC program so that the HSD Income Support Division (ISD) may determine eligibility for the SCI program. Once determined eligible, individuals will be screened for participation in the UNMHSC medical home pilot.

HSD has an intergovernmental agreement with UNMHSC that allows UNM to contribute the state share costs for its SCI enrollees. This means that the state general fund will not be impacted by costs associated with new enrollment into the UNMHSC SCI program. The state has been unable to accept new enrollment into the SCI program due to state funding constraints and has been operating with a waiting list since November 2009. However, current SCI members are able to recertify annually for the program.

For those who are eligible, they can call (505) 348-1578 or 1-866-403-3018 for more information.

**The key objectives of the UNMHSC medical home pilot include:**

* Improving quality of care and enhancing care management
* Demonstrating measurable reductions in utilization of higher-end services
* Improving medication compliance, reducing emergency room use and inpatient admissions
* Providing quality data about a population that is similar to the adult population that will be part of the Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act in 2014
* Aligning performance and financing in an enhanced care delivery model

**What Is SCI?**

* An innovative insurance product combining features of a basic commercial plan and Medicaid
* Provides affordable health care coverage for low-income working adults, primarily through an employer-based system
* Serves as an model of a successful public/private partnership that incorporates employee and employer contributions with state and federal funding

**SCI Funding**

* FY 2012: State- $ 68.3 million/Federal- $ 181.9 million

**SCI Enrollment**

* Total enrollees: 40,986 (as of December 1, 2011)
* 25,700 enrollees are childless adults
* 15,300 enrollees are parents
* Total Employer Groups: 1,378

**SCI Premiums**

* Employer pays either $0 or $75 per month per eligible employee depending on employee’s income
* Employee pays $0 or $20 or $35 per month (depending on income)
* Individuals not associated with an employer pay both the employer and employee premiums as applicable, depending on their income

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