

WELCOME AND CHARGE TO COMMITTEE

- I would like to welcome members of the new Health Coverage for New Mexicans Committee. As chair of the Committee, I'm pleased to be working with you all. You have been appointed to serve by Governor Richardson, Senate President Pro Tem Ben Altamirano and Speaker of the House Ben Lujan; and I want to congratulate you on your appointment to this Committee that will help to select health coverage models for analysis by national experts and make recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature after hearing those experts' reports. You will also be assisting in the final selection of those experts, after review of proposals by state staff.
- I would also like to welcome folks in the audience and stress that we appreciate your attendance at the Health Coverage for New Mexicans Committee meetings.
- The New Mexico state Legislature as well as Governor Bill Richardson's Health Care Coverage and Access Task Force and *Insure New Mexico!* Council have been hard at work over the past three years, first learning who the uninsured are, and why they are uninsured. This information helped determine the best ways in finding solutions to:
 - Decrease the number of uninsured in New Mexico and,
 - Increase the number of small employers who offer health insurance to their employees.
- The number one thing we learned is that individuals and families, especially those with low incomes, and small employers in New Mexico – whether businesses or non-profits – have a hard time affording health insurance for themselves or their employees.

- The *Insure NM!* Council came up with several suggestions to help in this effort, and was successful in getting them through the Legislature and up to the Governor for his approval.
- One of the recommendations of the Council and of the Legislative Health and Human Services Committee was to create a group endorsed by the Executive and the Legislature to select models of health coverage for financial analysis that would move toward covering all New Mexicans. And here we are!
- The official **charge** for the Health Coverage for New Mexicans Committee is in your packet. I urge you to read it, and if you have any questions, please see me or Secretary Pam Hyde or LCS Deputy Director Raul Burciaga.
- The charge stresses that this Committee will determine models to be analyzed, conduct open meetings, solicit public input, and make recommendations on next steps after the models are analyzed. The Committee will also be hearing from and selecting the national expert(s) to conduct these analyses, after proposals are reviewed and scored by state staff.
- So we want to be clear about what the charge of the Health Coverage for New Mexicans Committee is, and what it is not. Any final policy decision about health coverage will be made by the Legislature and the Governor via the regular public policy-making processes. The Committee will help inform these processes by determining health coverage models for analysis by an independent national expert or experts, and making recommendations after hearing their report.
- For the Legislators on the Committee, we will not be conducting this Committee the way Legislative Committees are conducted. Due to the short time frame we have to do our work and the huge amount of work we have to do, we will try our best to stick to the topics and timeframes indicated on the agendas. While everyone will have a chance to comment or ask questions, we'll ask Committee members to keep those comments and questions

short and focused on the issue at hand. If I or anyone else facilitating a particular part of the agenda feel that one Committee member is utilizing too much time or is off point, we will ask you to wrap up and allow us to move on to someone else.

- These are complex issues with lots of opinions and passion by many individuals and groups. I ask that you try to be open-minded, listen to all points of view, including those from presenters and the public, and work together to think about which models would be best for New Mexico to study and which vendor would be best for us to utilize to get the information we need about those models.

INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS

- We will be talking more about models, criteria, and selection processes, but first, I now want to go around the Committee and ask the members to introduce themselves, say where you're from and who you represent, and briefly describe why health coverage for New Mexicans is important to you.

(30 minutes for introductions)

- Thank you all and again, welcome.

OPERATING PROCEDURES

- Now we'll move on to the next agenda item, Committee Operating Procedures. We want to disclose that all meetings of the Committee will be recorded and you are all ***being recorded*** now; so people can listen to the meetings, as well as have copies of the ***minutes*** available for review. I want to thank Raul Burciaga of LCS for taking these minutes for the Committee.
- If a member of the Committee wants to listen to a meeting you've missed or want to hear something again, see Ruby Ann Esquibel from HSD, who will help you with that.

- There is also press in the room, and we want everyone to be aware of that as well.
- Regarding *attendance and proxies*, I want to be clear that you were all appointed by the Governor or Legislative Leadership. As such, you personally have been asked to serve, not as a member of your organization, but as an individual who brings to the table your individual expertise and ideas.
- If you need to miss a meeting, please let us know. A proxy you designate may attend on your behalf to listen and receive materials, but to maintain continuity, we will only allow appointees to speak and participate and if necessary vote, except for designated opportunities for public input.
- Additionally, I wish to note that in my absence as chair, I'll ask Cabinet Secretary *Pam Hyde* of the Human Services Department *to chair* the Committee as well as facilitating other Committee matters as needed.
- Regarding *per diem*, per diem will be available on an as-needed basis; and will be provided through the Legislative Council Service and Human Services Department for Committee members whose organizations are not able to meet members' mileage or per diem needs.
- Also, as Chair I will identify a *subcommittee* and its members should the need arise, but for the most part we will try to operate as a Committee of the Whole.
- You all have been provided with *binders and several informational pieces of material*. You may leave your binders with staff after meetings if you choose, or better yet—you may take them home with you to study all the material and bring them back with you for meetings.
- We have provided you with some important background information that will help you to evaluate the health coverage models that will come before you.
- We wish to clarify that if informational materials present something from a particular state, say Massachusetts, or a

particular model—we are not “pushing” or “advocating” for that specific model. It is all purely informational. If a Committee member wishes to submit materials for the Committee to review, please see Ruby Ann, and she’ll make sure the Committee receives a copy of whatever you provide to her.

- Secretary Hyde, did you want to go through the materials for the Committee?
- The final item I wanted to address was the *Committee’s Timeline and Draft Agendas*. Copies of draft agendas for all of the Committee’s meetings are included in your packet, as well as a timeline for what we hope to accomplish.
- I want to note that we have an entire meeting dedicated to hearing from the public. That meeting is on Wednesday, September 27th, from 3:00pm to 6:45pm in this same room.
- Additionally, if anybody—either from the Committee or the public—wishes to submit written input at any time, please feel free to do so. It should go to Ruby Ann Esquibel at rubyann.esquibel@state.nm.us.
- I’ll now turn it over to Secretary Pam Hyde to discuss the agendas and timelines a little more, as well as the remainder of the agenda items.
- Thank you.