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State Encourages Public to Provide Input on Health Priorities Department of Health, Health Policy Commission Hosts Eight Community Meetings

(Santa Fe) – The New Mexico Department of Health and Health Policy Commission are asking the public for input on the State’s strategic health plan, which will guide New Mexico’s top health-care priorities and goals. The Department encourages people to attend eight community meetings held across the state to give input on the 2008 New Mexico Comprehensive Strategic Health Plan. The first meeting will be held in Portales on March 27.

New Mexico’s strategic health plan lists health priorities and goals for how state and local governments, health-care providers, businesses, schools and individuals can work on these priorities. Those priorities are: health disparities, workforce issues, immunizations, prevention of teenage pregnancy and youth suicide, emergency care systems, long-term care, health-care coverage and access, behavioral health, oral health, environmental health, and healthier weight.

“It’s important that we get your input on how we can work toward improving your health, your community’s health and the health-care system,” said Health Secretary Dr. Alfredo Vigil. “We encourage you to give us your feedback and learn how you can contribute toward making New Mexico a healthier state.”

All meetings will be held from 9:30 to 3:30 p.m. The Department scheduled three meetings to specifically address Native American concerns. The public is invited to all meetings. Meetings will be held in the following locations:

- March 27 -- Portales, city of Portales Memorial Building at 200 E. 7th St.
- April 14 -- Las Vegas, Luna Community College at 366 Luna Drive
- May 7 -- Farmington, San Juan Community College at 4601 College Blvd.
- May 8 -- Farmington, San Juan Community College at 4601 College Blvd (Native American specific)
- May 12 -- Albuquerque, UNM Continuing Education at 1634 University Blvd, NE
- May 13 -- Albuquerque, UNM Continuing Education at 1634 University Blvd, NE (Native American specific)
- May 20 Santa Fe, State Library, 1290 Camino Carlos Rey (Native American specific)
- May 23 – Deming, 2300 East Pine

For more information or to register for these meetings please contact Margo Gomez at (505) 827-1052. People may also review and comment on the strategic health plan at <http://nmcompplan.pbwiki.com> or send comments to nmcshp.2008@state.nm.us.

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