

State of New Mexico
Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

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**SENATE CONFIRMS FOUR MEMBERS OF GOVERNOR BILL
RICHARDSON'S CABINET**

SANTA FE – Four of Governor Bill Richardson's Cabinet Secretaries received Senate confirmation today. The overwhelming approval during this morning's session paves the way for the secretaries to turn their complete attention to key state departments that sorely need their leadership.

The Senate confirmed the following Cabinet Secretaries:

Children, Youth and Families Secretary Mary-Dale Bolson. Ms. Bolson, who has a Ph.D. from the University of New Mexico in philosophy and education, is a former principal at the New Futures School in Albuquerque. The school for pregnant and parenting teens and their children is a model program that is already well known for its successes.

Bolson served as Superintendent of Education, juvenile justice division of CYFD from 1997 until 2000. She wrote the department's first Program Review and aligned all the educational opportunities at all the incarceration and reintegration centers.

"In the last few years we have heard about lost money and forgotten children. We've read about poor child support enforcement and innocent victims of repeated domestic violence. Today we begin the process to turn the Department of Children, Youth and Families around," Governor Bill Richardson said of Bolson.

Human Services Secretary Pamela Hyde. Ms. Hyde is a nationally recognized health care consultant. Since 1996, she has served in the Santa Fe office as a Senior Consultant for The Technical Assistance Collaborative, Inc., a national non-profit healthcare-consulting firm. She has been the Director of Housing and Human Services for the city of Seattle, where she streamlined and consolidated the delivery of services to children and the elderly.

Appointed by Ohio Governor Richard Celeste in 1990 as Director of the Ohio Department of Human Services, Hyde distinguished herself by developing a proposal to reform Medicaid and Child Support enforcement. As Director, she managed a budget of

over 5 billion dollars and was responsible for meeting the health and social service needs of Ohio's adults, children and families.

Hyde also served as the Ohio Director of Mental Health from 1983 until 1990. This cabinet level position put her in charge of over 6,000 employees with an annual budget of over 500 million dollars. Hyde focused on community support, drug and alcohol treatment and systems reform.

“The Department of Human Services impacts hundreds of thousands of New Mexicans,” said Governor Bill Richardson. “Major problems have plagued the Department for the last several years. There have been accounting problems, management problems and budgeting problems. It has the largest budget of any agency – over 470 million state dollars. I am counting on Pamela Hyde to meet our obligations to govern in a fiscally responsible way and to meet our commitment to the people of New Mexico.”

Health Secretary Patricia Montoya. Ms. Montoya served as the Commissioner in the Administration on Children, Youth and Families, at the Department of Health and Human Services from November 1998 until December 2000.

Montoya is a graduate of the university of New Mexico with a M. A. degree in Public Administration and Health Administration. Prior to her confirmation by the United States Senate as commissioner in the Administration on Children, Patricia served for four years as the Regional Director for Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala in the Dallas Regional office where she was responsible for a five state area.

Montoya is a Nurse by training and has a clinical background including pediatrics, emergency care, primary care and home health services.

Montoya is an Albuquerque native and received her Bachelor's Degree from the University of New Mexico. She is married to Alfred Padilla.

“We have tremendous health problems in New Mexico and I am confident in that Patricia Montoya will serve our state and my administration with dedication and devotion to the needs of our communities and our people,” Governor Bill Richardson said.

Environment Secretary Ron Curry. Mr. Curry, a Hobbs native, and a graduate of Sandia High School, holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of New Mexico.

Over the course of his 30-year career, Curry has extensive work experience in the public and private sector. He has developed an environmental strategic plan (to include a renewable energy portfolio, served as village administrator for Los Ranchos de Albuquerque, served as Santa Fe City Manager, former Deputy Secretary of the New Mexico Environment Department, and served as the Small Business State Ombudsman for air quality regulations.

“Ron Curry understands the importance of the environment to our quality of life and the need to balance all of the many different interests from throughout the state,” Governor Bill Richardson said. “Our environment is our most important resource and we must ensure it is protected for generations to come.”

