



**Governor Bill Richardson Takes Action on Healthcare-
Announces Two Key Appointments
Michelle Lujan Grisham as NM Secretary of Health,
Debbie Armstrong as Secretary of Aging**

**Secretary Grisham to manage restoration of \$3.7 million in funding for
health care programs**

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SANTA FE- Governor Bill Richardson today announced he has appointed Michelle Lujan Grisham, currently the Secretary of Aging and Long Term Services, to be the state's new Secretary of Health.

"Secretary Grisham has proven that she is a strong, competent, and caring leader who is willing to roll up her sleeves to get the job done," said Governor Richardson. "She is a proven consensus builder, who understands how to balance the needs of the people her agency serves with responsible fiscal management. Secretary Grisham knows how to navigate the bureaucracy of health care, and understands the overlapping health services of different agencies such as Human Services, Children Youth and Families, and Aging and Long Term Services."

Governor Richardson also named Deborah Armstrong as his choice to replace Secretary Grisham at the Department of Aging and Long Term Services. She is currently the Deputy Secretary of that department.

"Debbie is a talented leader in her own right who has the experience to carry on the excellent work started by Secretary Grisham," said the Governor. "As Deputy, she has been leading my Zero Tolerance for Elder Abuse Initiative, is working to help seniors navigate the new federal prescription drug program, and his leading the effort to create a

long term care policy. Debbie is a dedicated, enthusiastic advocate for New Mexico's senior citizens."

Governor Richardson also said Secretary Grisham will oversee the restoration of funding to several public health and behavioral health programs that had been facing budget cuts:

- The Governor restored \$3.7 million in the public health division for HIV-AIDS treatment services, the children's medical services program, the healthier kids fund, and the high-risk prenatal fund. This means anyone who received services during the last budget year will receive services this year- no one who received services will be cut. This will ensure that no one is denied services unnecessarily, and it will give the department of Health time to thoroughly evaluate the programs in question and examine all funding options, and
- The Governor restored \$770,400 in the behavioral health services division for substance abuse programs in regions 1, 2, and 5.

"While I insist we run state government in a fiscally responsible way, I will not easily accept cutting programs that are working, and are helping to improve the health, and quality of life of our citizens," said Governor Richardson.

Following the resignation of former Health Secretary Pat Montoya, the Governor asked his Health Policy Advisor, Jessica Sutin, and Paul Minogue from the Department of Finance and Administration to examine the program and budget areas of the Department of Health.

"They dug deep into these areas and came back with very useful and enlightening information that Secretary Grisham can now use to implement and restore critical systems, take control of the budget and program areas, and ensure that every dollar spent is focused on providing the best possible health care services to our citizens," Governor Richardson said.