



NEW MEXICO HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT
P.O. Box 2348
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-2348

Bill Richardson
Governor

Pamela S. Hyde, J.D.
Secretary

*For further information contact: Betina Gonzales McCracken,
Communications Director, (505) 827-6245 or (505) 699-4675*

For Immediate Release

Legislature Passes Governor Richardson's Behavioral Health Plan – HB 271

Santa Fe, February 18, 2004 – Legislation that will streamline behavioral health services currently being offered by nine different state agencies is on its way to Governor Richardson. HB 271 creates the Interdepartmental Behavioral Health Purchasing Collaborative (IBHPC), which will benefit New Mexicans in the way mental health and substance abuse programs are provided. “By consolidating programs we will provide better delivery, enable better access and be more efficient with taxpayer dollars,” said Governor Bill Richardson.

This is one of four bills introduced this session as part of the governor's health care reform package. Governor Richardson asked Human Services Department Secretary Pamela Hyde to take the lead on this innovative effort for New Mexico. “The goal of the IBHPC is to create a common behavioral health plan and purchasing process that better addresses the mental health and substance abuse needs of New Mexicans,” said Hyde. Rep. Ed Sandoval sponsored HB 271, while Senator Steve Komadina sponsored a duplicate bill in the senate. HB 271 passed the Senate this afternoon with an amendment. The House quickly concurred.

The Behavioral Health Design Work Group has already begun the process of designing this new plan and purchasing process.

Governor Richardson's other health care agenda items include:

- SB 34 (Passed Senate and House) & HB 93 (Passed House): Comprehensive Statewide Health Plan
- HB 561 & SB 538: Health Care Purchasing Authority
- CS/HB 322 & CS/SB 315: Hospital and Nursing Home Oversight

###