



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson

Governor

Governor Bill Richardson and Albuquerque Mayor Martin J. Chavez Take Action on Lovelace Health System Concerns

Governor and Mayor want answers on Lovelace's plans for patient services

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SANTA FE - Governor Bill Richardson and Albuquerque Mayor Martin J. Chavez today announced the formation of a task force that their offices will jointly chair to answer concerns that have been raised about the Lovelace Health System.

"Many citizens are worried about the future of the system they have relied on for generations to keep them healthy. New Mexicans deserve more information and they deserve answers," said Governor Richardson.

The task force's goal will be to open communication between the Lovelace system and the community with an emphasis on how their recent changes and future plans will directly affect patient care.

"I continue to have great concern for all of our citizens to have open access to quality health care. I look forward to working with Governor Bill Richardson and our Health Care Task Force in seeking solutions to the challenges ahead", said Albuquerque Mayor Martin J. Chavez

"Let me be clear, Lovelace and the former St. Joseph system who merged in 2003 have provided excellent patient care for decades. They built much of the state's original health care infrastructure, pioneered many medical advances and were outstanding community

citizens. Under new ownership, those goals are still alive today. However, with change comes concern,” said Governor Richardson.

Physicians, nurses, Lovelace employees and patients have recently contacted the Governor’s Office and Mayor’s Office with concerns about:

- the loss of Lovelace’s behavioral health outpatient program,
- the closure or restructure of the Lovelace Medical Center,
- and the status the Lovelace Medical Group.

The task force will be co-chaired by Secretary Michelle Lujan Grisham of the New Mexico Department of Health and Fred Mondragon of the Mayor’s Office.

"One of the Department of Health's mandates is to assure that patient safety and health care access are maintained," said Secretary of Health Michelle Lujan Grisham. "We expect the health care industry to offer satisfactory plans to meet these health care obligations in New Mexico."

- The other six members of the task force will be:
 - Dr. Javier Aceves, UNM School of Medicine
 - Dr. Peter Beaudette, Secretary of the NM Medical Society
 - Dr. Lynn Bryant, President of the Greater Albuquerque Medical Association
 - Dr. Frank Hesse, retired surgeon and member of the Health Policy Commission
 - Mr. Charles Ivey, President of St. Joseph Community Health Services
 - Michelle Welby, Governor Richardson’s Health Policy Advisor

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