

## NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Secretary Alfredo Vigil, MD

For immediate release:

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### **Department of Health Supports Health Policy Commission's Mission**

(Santa Fe) – The New Mexico Department of Health, Department of Finance Administration and the Health Policy Commission signed a memorandum of understanding this week to jointly administer the New Mexico Health Policy Commission through the Department of Health due to drastic reductions in the HPC's budget starting next fiscal year.

The New Mexico Legislature reduced the Health Policy Commission's budget from \$811,000 this fiscal year to \$156,700 next fiscal year. The budget reductions make it extremely difficult for the HPC to exist without the Department of Health's support.

The Health Policy Commission is a state agency that was established by statute in 1991 to provide independent research, guidance, and recommendations on health policy issues that impact the planning of health care and health systems for New Mexico. It administers databases that collect, analyze and distribute health data and information for public and private agencies to use in health planning and policy development.

"In the face of this drastic cut to HPC's budget, I'm very appreciative of the Department of Health's willingness to support the remaining staff and mission of the HPC," said Sam Howarth, director of the HPC and the Department's Division of Policy and Performance. "With this support, I'm hopeful that the HPC can continue to provide guidance on health policy to the Executive, Legislative and citizens of New Mexico."

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