



News Release

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Medicaid, Twitter and Fun at RAC's 2nd Annual Health Fair, August 14

RIO ARRIBA COUNTY, New Mexico, August 2, 2013— The Rio Arriba County Health Council (RACHC) will be hosting its 2nd Annual RACHC Health Fair on August 14 at 9a.m. at the RAC Health Commons, located on 2010 Industrial Park Road in Española. This event is open to the public and will host a small farmers' market, a cooking demo booth, diabetes and heart screenings, a job fair, yoga and Jazzercise classes, several health education booths, a bike rodeo and more. Food and entertainment will also be provided.

“This event allows us not only to inform people about health service providers in Rio Arriba County, but we can also offer people the opportunity to get amenities they might not otherwise access such as dental services and immunizations,” said Lauren Reichelt, RAC Health and Human Services Director and event coordinator. “We are also able to promote healthy eating by encouraging citizens to buy local produce, and teach them how to cook and preserve food.”

As part of the event, Reichelt has organized a Twitter Town Hall meeting from 10a.m.-11a.m., which is designed to allow people to ask public officials questions related to Medicaid through Twitter, using the hash tag #HealthierNM, while those officials provide answers live at the event. The panel will include Congressman Ben R. Lujan, Julie Weinberg and Diana McWilliams of the State Human Services Department (HSD), Attorney General (AG) Gary King, State Senator Linda Lopez, Dr. Dale Alverson of University of New Mexico (UNM) Hospital, and David Roddy of NM Primary Care Association. Twitter Town Hall partners include Ben Ray Lujan, Health Action NM and ProgressNow NM. The event will be streaming live through local Española station, KDCE Radio 950AM.

“The public is encouraged to ask about all things Medicaid,” Reichelt said. “Any questions about Centennial Care, new services, eligibility, what's in the Affordable Care Act (ACA), the insurance exchange, Telehealth, and what services are available to the elderly and to the incarcerated, are welcome.”

Again, those who would like to participate in the Twitter Town Hall can tweet questions or comments using #HealthierNM any time between August 8-14 at 11:00 a.m.

“It's a festival. We want people to come up and visit the health commons and to feel proud of their community,” Reichelt added.

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