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### **Health Secretary Appoints Members of American Indian Health Advisory Committee**

(Santa Fe) – Dr. Alfredo Vigil, New Mexico Health Department Secretary, recently appointed new members of the Department of Health’s American Indian Health Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee guides the Department of Health in addressing health issues that impact American Indian populations in New Mexico.

The Advisory Committee will provide input on how proposed changes to state policy would affect the health of American Indians and identify and develop strategies to address gaps in health-care delivery systems and training and technical assistance needs for American Indian communities. The Committee formed in 2006 and adopted bylaws in 2007 that charged the committee with collaborating with the Department of Health to address health disparities among the Indian population in New Mexico.

“We appreciate the commitment of these talented individuals who are dedicated to helping us eliminate health disparities among American Indian populations in New Mexico,” Dr. Vigil said.

Committee members are:

- Josephine Waconda, MSN, former Assistant US Surgeon General and Albuquerque Area Indian Health Service Director from Isleta Pueblo
- Tassy Parker, R.N., PhD., member of Seneca Nation in New York and Assistant Professor of Family and Community Medicine and Co-Director of the Center of Native American Health at UNM
- Roxane Spruce-Bly, founder and coordinator of the Native Healthcare Council of New Mexico and a member of Laguna Pueblo
- Ken Lucero, tribal co-chair of the advisory committee from Zia Pueblo and chairman of the All Indian Pueblo Council Health Committee and the Albuquerque Indian Hospital Board at Indian Health Service
- Carleton P. Albert Sr., Councilman from Zuni Pueblo and member of the Indian Health Service National Budget Work Group
- Elizabeth Joyce Naseyowma-Chalan, MPH, associate director of the Center for Native American Health at the University of New Mexico. Naseyowma-Chalan is Taos and Hopi.
- Gwendolyn Dale Packard, executive director for the New Mexico Suicide Prevention Coalition, co-chair of the Region six local Behavioral Health Collaborative and an enrolled member of the Ihanktowan Dakota
- Norman Ration, executive director of the National Indian Youth Council and enrolled member of the Navajo Nation, the Navajo Nation Bar Association and the Native Rights Fund President
- Mark Siemon, MPH, MSN, director of the San Felipe Health and Wellness Department who has operated a comprehensive ambulatory clinic in San Felipe since 2001
- Patricia Renfro, MSN, director of the Alamo Ambulatory Health clinic and member of the New Mexico Diabetes Advisory Council and the American Association of Diabetes Educators

If you need further information on the Advisory Committee, contact the Department of Health's Tribal Liaison Ron Reid at 827-2627.