



BeWellnm Board of Directors Meeting Welcomes First Director of Health Insurance Appointed By Obama, As Guest Speaker

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Albuquerque, NM – BeWellnm, New Mexico’s Health Insurance Exchange, is pleased to announce that Joel Ario will be the guest speaker at the beWellnm Board of Directors meeting on July 21, 2017. Mr. Ario has over 30 years of experience shaping and implementing public health policy at the state and federal levels.

Mr. Ario is a managing director with Manatt, Phelps & Phillips. In 2009, Joel was appointed by President Barack Obama to be the first director of the Office of Health Insurance Exchanges at the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. In this role, he worked closely with states and other stakeholders to develop the regulatory framework for exchanges, including the rights and responsibilities of states and the federal government in expanding coverage. At the state level, Joel served as Pennsylvania Insurance Commissioner and Oregon Insurance Commissioner. He also served on the executive committee of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners and was an NAIC officer.

“Mr. Ario has extensive knowledge on public health policy and we are excited to listen to his experiences and learn some insight on how to continue successfully growing beWellnm. This will be an informative session and we would love to have other members of the community attend,” Dr. J.R. Damron, Chair of the beWellnm Board of Directors, said.

Mr. Ario is the author of several articles on healthcare reform. He serves as an advisor to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation in support of its State Health Reform Assistance Network, and he is a member of the Leavitt Partners Future Panel. He has provided strategic consulting and analysis on healthcare policies and institutions, with an emphasis on public and private exchange-based marketplaces. He represents state governments, health plans, hospitals, foundations and other entities.

The beWellnm Board of Directors regular Board Meeting is scheduled to be held at 8:30 a.m. on Friday July 21, 2017 at the CNM Workforce Training Center located at 5600 Eagle Rock Ave NE, Albuquerque, New Mexico. If an individual with a disability is in need of a reader, amplifier, qualified sign language interpreter or any other form of auxiliary aid or service to attend or participate in the meeting, please contact the beWellnm office at 1-505-314-5200 prior to the meeting. The agenda for the meeting shall be available at least seventy-two (72) hours before the meeting at the administrative offices of beWellnm, located at 7601 Jefferson St N.E Suite # 160, Albuquerque, New Mexico, and on the beWellnm

website, <http://www.bewellnm.com/>. Interested persons may also contact beWellnm at 1-505-314-5200 or by e-mail at receptionist@nmhix.com for a copy of the agenda.

About beWellnm, New Mexico's Health Insurance Exchange

BeWellnm was created to help individuals and small businesses get access to affordable health insurance plans. BeWellnm helps consumers compare health insurance plans and choose the plan that works best for their health needs and budget. BeWellnm also helps individuals determine whether they are eligible for premium assistance and if so, at what level. Through beWellnm for Small Business, small businesses are able to purchase competitively priced health insurance plans and offer their employees the ability to choose from an array of plans. Enrollment Counselors and insurance agents are available throughout the state to help with signing up for health insurance.

To find more information on beWellnm, New Mexico's Health Insurance Exchange, visit www.beWellnm.com or call us at 1-855-996-6449.

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