

STATE OF NEW MEXICO Michelle Lujan Grisham, Governor

Jen Paul Schroer, Cabinet Secretary Designate Sarah Jacobs, Deputy Secretary Antoinette Vigil, Deputy Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 18, 2023

ALTSD Contact:

Joey Long, PhD Public Information Officer <u>Joey.long@altsd.nm.gov</u>

New Mexico Aging and Long-Term Services Department Welcomes Laura Hopkins as new Policy Advisory Committee member

SANTA FE – The New Mexico Aging and Long-Term Services Department (ALTSD) is pleased to announce the appointment of Laura Hopkins as a new member of the ALTSD Policy Advisory Committee (PAC). Hopkins, a seasoned professional with a rich background in public service, is set to contribute her extensive expertise to advance the department's mission of providing high-quality care and services for New Mexico's aging population.

Laura Hopkins is a 3rd generation American and grew up in a multi-generational family, which ignited her compassion for and interest in working with older adults. She brings over 40 years' experience in the development, implementation and management of programs for seniors and those with disabilities. Hopkins began working with ALTSD in March 2023 as a Special Advisor and is now transitioning to serving as a PAC member starting January 1, 2024.

"We are delighted to welcome Laura to the Policy Advisory Committee," said Cabinet Secretary Designate **Jen Paul Schroer**. "Her proven track record and dedication to public service aligns perfectly with our goal of ensuring all New Mexicans have access to the highest quality of care and services. Laura's wealth of experience and insights will undoubtedly enhance our efforts to better ensure all New Mexicans have access to the highest quality of care and services as they age."

"I want to thank Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham and Sec. Designate Schroer for their continued confidence in my ability to serve the department and my fellow New Mexicans," said new committee member **Laura Hopkins**. "I am excited to continue the vital work of the agency and help Sec. Designate Schoer achieve her vision for our state's older adults."

As a PAC member, Hopkins will participate in the development of recommendations and help raise awareness of the department's initiatives to better serve New Mexico's aging and long-term

care community. The department looks forward to working with Hopkins and the existing PAC members to continue its strides toward a more vibrant, inclusive, and caring New Mexico.

The New Mexico Aging and Long-Term Services Department (ALTSD) was established in 2004 to provide advocacy, support, and resources for seniors and adults with disabilities. The department oversees the state's Area Agencies on Aging to elevate the quality of care at senior centers, offers advocacy through the Long-Term Care Ombudsman volunteer program, and provides intervention through the agency's national award-winning Adult Protective Services. Additionally, ALTSD houses the state's Aging and Disability Resource Center, which offers options counseling, education, and connection to resources. For more information about ALTSD, visit aging.nm.gov or follow us on Facebook, X (Twitter), and Instagram @NewMexicoAging.