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Sec. Schroer to embark on statewide tour to promote aging department initiatives

Secretary will visit four distinct regions on first leg of tour

SANTA FE – This spring, New Mexico Aging and Long-Term Services Department (ALTSD) Cabinet Secretary Jen Paul Schroer will embark on the first leg of a statewide tour. This tour aims to highlight the department's initiatives, engage directly with communities, and foster dialogue around aging-related issues across New Mexico.

"I am thrilled to embark on this journey across our state, engaging directly with the communities that our department serves," said Cabinet Secretary **Jen Paul Schroer**. "As New Mexico's aging population continues to increase, it is imperative that we take proactive steps to address the unique needs of our older adults in all areas of the state. This tour underscores our commitment to bolstering the aging network and ensuring that our communities are equipped with the services and infrastructure necessary for individuals to age and thrive in their communities of choice."

Sec. Schroer will make four stops on the first leg of the tour:

Southwest Region (Truth or Consequences, Las Cruces, Deming, Alamogordo): April 17 – 19

• During this first stop, Sec. Schroer will visit with senior centers and long-term care facilities in the region, tour a local farm, lead a group fitness class, present on department initiatives and meet with community stakeholders.

Eastern Region (Santa Rosa, Clovis, Tucumcari): May 16 – 17

• During this second stop, Sec. Schroer will celebrate the grand opening of the Clovis Senior Center, visit with long-term care facilities and engage with community stakeholders.

Northern Central Region (Las Vegas, Springer, Raton, Cimarron, Taos County): May 20-22

• During this third stop, Sec. Schroer will visit with senior centers and long-term care facilities in the region, call a Bingo game, and engage with department initiatives.

Northwest Tribal Region (Pueblo of Acoma, Navajo Nation, Pueblo of Zuni): May 28 – 30

• During this final stage of the tour, Cabinet Secretary Schroer will have the honor of meeting with Tribal leadership and their respected elders, interacting in cultural activities, touring local facilities, and engaging with the community stakeholders of these tribes.

For more information about the tour, please contact <u>communications@altsd.nm.gov</u>.

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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<u>aging.nm.gov</u> or follow us on <u>Facebook, X (Twitter</u>), and <u>Instagram</u> @NewMexicoAging.