

**AGREEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING TO IMPROVE AND UPHOLD PUBLIC
HEALTH CONDITIONS IN THE BINATIONAL BORDER REGION OF THE
STATES OF CHIHUAHUA, MEXICO, AND NEW MEXICO, UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA**

This Agreement of Understanding is made and entered into by the Government of the State of Chihuahua, Mexico, represented by Lic. José Reyes Baeza Terrazas in his capacity as Governor, through the participation of the Secretariat of Social Development; and the Government of the State of New Mexico, United States of America, represented by Bill Richardson, in his capacity as Governor, through the New Mexico Department of Health.

BACKGROUND

- **WHEREAS** the states of Chihuahua and New Mexico share an international border and benefit from economic, cultural, and social activities in the shared border region;
- **WHEREAS** it is in the interest of both States to improve and maintain the health and wellbeing of residents within and outside of their respective borders;
- **WHEREAS** dealing effectively with the risks of infectious diseases, the threats of potential bioterrorism agents, reducing chronic diseases, and providing timely preventive, primary and clinical care is the responsibility of both State Governments through their respective Health Authorities; and
- **WHEREAS** the Servicios de Salud de Chihuahua and the New Mexico Department of Health have successfully collaborated on activities to improve public health conditions in their shared border region, and as Governor of Chihuahua Lic. José Reyes Baeza Terrazas and Governor of New Mexico Bill Richardson deem the continuation and expansion of these collaborations to be of mutual interest and benefit to both Governments and their respective citizens.

I. PURPOSE OF THE AGREEMENT

Governor Lic. José Reyes Baeza Terrazas and Governor Bill Richardson hereto enter into this Agreement of Understanding for the purposes of:

1. Furthering collaboration in the development and implementation of a comprehensive strategic plan to improve public health services in the

Palomas, Chihuahua—Luna County, New Mexico binational border region;

2. Improving epidemiology, surveillance and control of infectious and communicable diseases in the binational border region;
3. Expanding mechanisms and forums for improved sharing of health data and reporting of notifiable health conditions, including interoperable software and electronic data systems;
4. Further improving the capacities of public and private health services providers and analytical laboratories staff on both sides of the border through workshops, professional seminars and training courses, study tours and staff exchanges;
5. Further improving collaboration and coordination of preventive and primary care services for residents of the border region through the sharing of client health information and immunization records;
6. Further improving binational preparedness and response capabilities in the event of regional health emergencies, including pandemic influenza; and
7. Developing additional protocols and procedures that would improve the provision of health care services to residents of the binational border region that respect the economic, social, cultural and political differences and similarities between the two States.

II. THE GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF CHIHUAHUA COMMITS TO:

1. Remodel and equip the Palomas Health Center and increase staffing with health professionals to improve the provision of health services for Palomas residents.
2. Establish up to two seasonal influenza sentinel sites in Palomas and Nuevo Casas Grandes (or other site to be agreed upon), and train personnel to apply rapid-test protocols for the surveillance of seasonal influenza as part of the Border Influenza Sentinel Surveillance Network.
3. Provide clinical and laboratory space, and personnel necessary to improve the surveillance, control, and management of binational cases of tuberculosis, including the collection and transfer of specimens from the Nuevo Casas Grandes Health Jurisdiction to New Mexico Department of Health officials at the Columbus Port of Entry.
4. Provide the personnel necessary to improve the surveillance, control, and management of cases of sexually-transmitted diseases, including syphilis, HIV/AIDS, chlamydia and gonorrhea in the Palomas area.

5. Collaborate with the New Mexico Department of Health to improve the binational collection and interchange of epidemiological information, subject to prior federal authorization.
6. Collaborate in the provision of personnel to develop a Promotor/a Committee and train and support a corps of Promotores/as in Palomas, Chihuahua.
7. Provide personnel to expand health education and promotion activities in the areas of: improved prenatal care; improved immunization coverage; reduction of obesity and diabetes, substance abuse including alcohol, drugs, and tobacco; and behavioral and mental health.
8. Provide support and assistance in the form of training, materials and equipment to improve and sustain emergency management services and the capacity of first responders, such as ambulance, fire, and mutual support, in Palomas.
9. Work with the State of New Mexico to improve preparedness for and response to regional health emergencies such as pandemic influenza to include tabletop and simulation drills between the Chihuahua Health Jurisdiction 5 and health services providers and first responders in Luna and Hidalgo Counties, New Mexico.
10. Develop protocols with the Secretary of the New Mexico Department of Health and with Mexican federal government authorities to delineate the conditions under which Mexican nationals may enter the United States Port of Entry in Columbus to seek emergency health and medical services.

III. THE GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO COMMITS TO:

1. Provide materials and training to Servicios de Salud de Chihuahua to expand the Border Influenza Sentinel Surveillance Network, to include the addition of up to two sentinel sites in Palomas and Nuevo Casas Grandes (or other site to be agreed upon).
2. Provide assistance to Servicios de Salud de Chihuahua in the form of materials and training to improve the surveillance, control, and management of binational cases of tuberculosis, including the reception and processing of specimens from the Nuevo Casas Grandes Health Jurisdiction to the New Mexico Department of Health Scientific Laboratory Division in Albuquerque.
3. Provide assistance to Chihuahua State Health Services in the form of materials and training to improve surveillance, control, and case management of sexually-transmitted diseases, including syphilis, HIV/AIDS, clamidia and gonorrhea.
4. Collaborate with Servicios de Salud de Chihuahua to improve the binational collection and interchange of epidemiological information.

5. Support Servicios de Salud de Chihuahua and other local stakeholders with training and materials to develop a Promotor/a Committee and a corps of Promotores/as in Palomas, Chihuahua.
6. Provide assistance to Servicios de Salud de Chihuahua and other local stakeholders in the form of training and materials to improve binational health education and promotion in the areas of: improved prenatal care; improved immunization coverage; reduction of obesity and diabetes, substance abuse including alcohol, drugs, and tobacco; and behavioral and mental health.
7. Provide assistance to Servicios de Salud de Chihuahua and other local stakeholders in the form of training, materials and equipment, subject to New Mexico statutory restrictions on the disposition of public property, to improve and sustain emergency management services and the capacity of first responders such as ambulance, fire, and mutual support.
8. Work with the Secretaría de Fomento Social to improve preparedness for and response to regional health emergencies such as pandemic influenza to include tabletop and simulation drills between health services providers and first responders in the State of Chihuahua and Luna and Hidalgo Counties, New Mexico.
9. Develop protocols with the Secretario de Fomento Social and with Mexican Federal government authorities to delineate the conditions under which Mexican nationals may enter the United States Port of Entry in Columbus to seek emergency health and medical services.

The Interested Parties agree that their respective public health authorities, who are legally authorized to receive protected health information without patient authorization for the purpose of preventing or controlling disease, shall, where appropriate, reasonably limit the protected health information disclosed for public health purposes to the minimum amount necessary to accomplish the public health purpose.

IV. Period of Agreement

The Interested parties intend this agreement to be effective upon signed approval of both parties and it will terminate on September 30, 2010. At the termination of this Agreement the Interested Parties may, by written agreement, renew this Agreement of Understanding for a specified period of time.

V. Limitations of Agreement

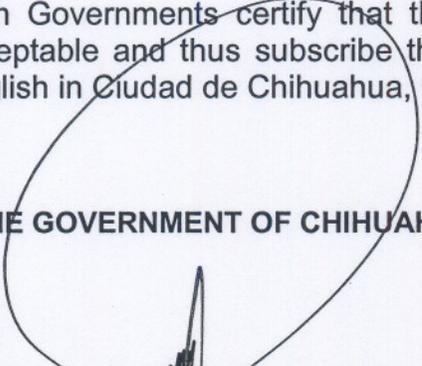
The Governors of the States of Chihuahua and New Mexico acknowledge that this Agreement of Understanding is not intended to create any legally binding rights or

obligations and will not be enforceable in any court of law in the United States or Mexico. Neither the Secretaría de Fomento Social nor the New Mexico Department of Health are responsible for the actions of third parties or other associates who may be involved in activities outlined in this Agreement of Understanding.

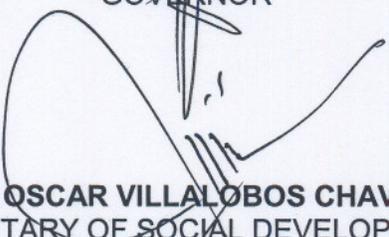
The Government of Chihuahua and the Government of New Mexico commit themselves in good will to implement this Agreement of Understanding to the fullest extent practicable.

Both Governments certify that the terms and conditions of this agreement are acceptable and thus subscribe this Agreement of Understanding in Spanish and English in Ciudad de Chihuahua, Chihuahua, Mexico, on May 7, 2008.

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF CHIHUAHUA



LIC. JOSE REYES BAEZA TERRAZAS
GOVERNOR

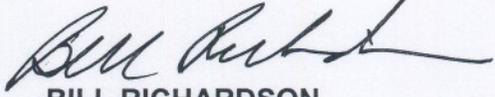


LIC. OSCAR VILLALOBOS CHAVEZ
SECRETARY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

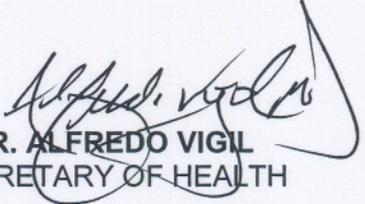


DR. OCTAVIO RODRIGO MARTINEZ PEREZ
DIRECTOR GENERAL DE SERVICIOS DE
SALUD

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF NEW MEXICO



BILL RICHARDSON
GOVERNOR



DR. ALFREDO VIGIL
SECRETARY OF HEALTH