

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: November 1, 2016

Contact: Michael Pitula
Phone: (505) 867-6046
Email: info@nmdcc.org
Website: nmdcc.org

Coalition seeks to 'Raise the Floor, Build the Ladder' for caregivers

Forum will explore strategies to improve frontline healthcare jobs

Albuquerque, NM, November 1, 2016: Healthcare jobs are fast growing as New Mexico's and the nation's populations age. But will these be good jobs with clear paths for career advancement? The New Mexico Direct Caregivers' Coalition (NMDCC) takes on this question at its November 16 luncheon summit – Raise the Floor, Build the Ladder. The Summit will convene national and New Mexico leaders, including employers. Panelists will discuss the advantages to both workers and employers of shifting employment and workforce strategies to "raising the floor and building ladders" for frontline healthcare workers. The Coalition will also facilitate discussion around developing a Good Jobs Code for this sector. NMDCC will host the Summit at CNM Workforce Training Center, in partnership with the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, Con Alma Health Foundation, AARP – New Mexico and the McCune Charitable Foundation.

The Summit will build upon a successful statewide effort in April 2015 which convened policymakers, funders, employers and advocacy organizations to share strategies for frontline workers across several industry sectors. This year's event will focus attention on healthcare employers as the key leverage for improving the workplace and advancing supports for workers. It will highlight the practices of employers who are doing "good" by their employees.

The Summit seeks to benefit employers and workers alike. "A Good Jobs Code and best practices in employment pay off by improving employee retention, productivity and morale," said Anthony Rael, Lead Organizer for NMDCC. "These benefits are transferred to clients and patients as well, who are likely to see higher quality of care."

10 Placitas Trails Rd., Placitas, NM 87043

www.nmdcc.org

**

facebook.com/NewMexicoDirectCaregiversCoalition

**

twitter.com/NMcaregivers

Advocating for direct care workers' education, training, benefits, wages and professional development so they may better serve people who are elderly and those with disabilities



But the Coalition warns that benefits will not come by themselves. Job growth in healthcare does not automatically guarantee economic security or opportunity for advancement among those who do the work. “Labor markets are changing. Of the 30 occupations expected to have the largest growth in the next decade, 23 will require a high school diploma or less,” notes Adrienne Smith, the Coalition’s President and CEO, “Jobs in industries like home healthcare, typically offer low wages, irregular hours, limited benefits and limited opportunities for advancement.” The Summit seeks to explore strategies to turn this trend around as the need for workers grows.

Panelists will include Elly Kugler, J.D., Field Director for Caring Across Generations; Diana Abeyta, Tribal and Northern Coordinator for the Office of Community Health Workers at the New Mexico Department of Health; Gene Varela, State Director, AARP-New Mexico; David Fresquez, Owner, Home Companion Care, LLC; Sandy Skaar, Owner, Self-Directed Choices, LLC; and Branda Parker, Executive Director, San Juan Center for Independence.

The Luncheon Summit will occur Wednesday, November 16, 2016 from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm. The CNM Workforce Training Center is located at 5600 Eagle Rock Ave NE. A workshop for caregivers on the Good Jobs Code will follow immediately after at 1:45 pm. The Summit is especially for foundations, state policymakers, employers, including home health and managed-care organizations, workforce and economic development professionals and advocacy organizations and is free to frontline caregivers. Attendees can register at nmdcc.org or by calling (505) 867-6046.

###

10 Placitas Trails Rd., Placitas, NM 87043

www.nmdcc.org

**

facebook.com/NewMexicoDirectCaregiversCoalition

**

twitter.com/NMcaregivers