



For more information, please contact:  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **HMS Scholarships Available to Eligible 2017 Hidalgo and Grant County High School Graduates**

Silver City, NM (March 13, 2017) – All 2017 Hidalgo or Grant County high school graduates who are enrolled to attend college during the Fall 2017 semester/quarter are invited to apply for an \$500 college scholarship by Friday, April 14, 2017. If selected as an awardee, each applicant will be notified by phone or email in late April 2017. All scholarships will be formally presented at an HMS Scholarship Program recognition event in early May 2017, and a check will be disbursed to the student's university/college.

The HMS Scholarship Program is open to eligible, high school students in both Hidalgo and Grant Counties.

Eligibility requirements for the 2017 HMS Scholarship Program include:

- Evidence of 2017 Hidalgo or Grant County (NM) High School Graduation (Copy of Official High School Transcripts or Graduation Certificate)
- Three Letters of Reference
- Verification of Fall 2017 (semester/quarter) Enrollment in a College/University Degree Program
- Brief, Personal Statement including Educational and Career Goals and Objectives

"As our mission states, Hidalgo Medical Services positively impacts the health, well-being and quality of life for those we serve providing comprehensive, integrated, affordable healthcare and education of patients and healthcare professionals," stated Dan Otero, HMS Chief Executive Officer. Otero added, "The HMS Board of Directors and our organizational leadership recognize the importance of supporting our community's next generation of healthcare leaders. HMS encourages and emphasizes the importance of two of our organizational values through the coordination of the 2017 HMS Scholarship Program – those values are community and education."

Please contact Audrey Coward, HMS Executive Assistant, at (575) 597-2718 or [acoward@hmsnm.org](mailto:acoward@hmsnm.org) for more information regarding the 2017 HMS Scholarship Program. Please visit [www.hmsnm.org](http://www.hmsnm.org) to learn more about HMS.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **HMS CEO, Dan Otero, Provides Hidalgo County Commissioners and Community with Update on Pharmacy**

Silver City, NM (March 15, 2017) – “Hidalgo Medical Services (HMS) has always been very proud to have our origins in Hidalgo County and is proud to be partnered with the Hidalgo County, the City of Lordsburg, local businesses, and the residents of Hidalgo County,” stated Dan Otero, HMS Chief Executive Officer. “As Hidalgo County’s only Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), HMS has developed numerous partnerships within the community over the years, and our primary focus is to continue to serve the healthcare needs of its citizens. HMS serves over 16,000 unique patients each year, of which almost 4,000 unique patients are residents of Hidalgo County and over 22,000 visits occur within the four locations within the county,” added Otero.

Additionally, HMS has been working diligently to establish retail pharmacy services within Hidalgo County over the past year. Pharmacy services are critical for Hidalgo County and have been lacking for some time. HMS has partnered with Genoa, a QoL Healthcare Company, to support these much needed services. A new pharmacy at the HMS Lordsburg Clinic is currently scheduled to open by mid-to-late May.

HMS has also been assessing its ability to provide Urgent Care services within Hidalgo County; however, the business model is not a feasible option at this time according to Mr. Otero. In collaboration with the HMS Board of Directors, HMS is assessing its ability to expand clinic access on Saturdays, to include walk-in services, sometime after June 2017.

Lastly, HMS was notified that Occupational Health Services are no longer available within Hidalgo County. HMS has been actively engaged in conversations with John and Elaine Prejean of Occupational Health Laboratories in Silver City to meet the community’s needs.

Mr. Otero closed his comments by reaffirming HMS’ commitment to serving Hidalgo County and welcomes discussions for future partnerships to support the health, well-being and quality of life for its citizens.

Community members are encouraged to contact Dan Otero, HMS Chief Executive Officer, directly via email at [dotero@hmsnm.org](mailto:dotero@hmsnm.org) to discuss individual questions regarding HMS services in Hidalgo County.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Free Senior Health Screenings Are Now Available to Hidalgo County Seniors at the HMS Ena Mitchell Senior Center in Lordsburg**

Silver City, NM (March 20, 2017) – Free whole body wellness screenings are now available to Hidalgo County seniors, age 60 and older. Wellness screenings offered throughout the month include blood pressure checks, vitals, dental education, and depression screenings. These screenings do not replace visits to your primary care, behavioral health or dental provider, but instead are a great way to connect seniors with area wellness resources, as well as increase the ability of seniors to communicate their needs to their comprehensive health care providers.

Leslie Tomerlin, HMS Senior Center Coordinator, stated, “Eleven Hidalgo County seniors participated in the free medical screenings provided by HMS Family Residency Program Resident Physician, Neel Patel, MD, on March 9th.” This past February, Hidalgo County senior citizens also received complimentary mental health screenings from Dawn Brett, PhD, BCETS, FAAETS, HMS Integration Psychologist, at the HMS Senior Center. During the free mental health screenings provided by HMS, event participants learned how to access available mental health resources.

Upcoming, free whole body wellness screenings available at the HMS Senior Center in Lordsburg include:

- Medical Screenings – every 2nd Thursday of the month from 1:00 to 2:00pm
- Mental Health Screenings – every 3rd Wednesday of the month from 11:00am to 12:00pm
- Dental Screenings – every 4th Wednesday of the month from 12:30pm to 1:30pm

Please contact Leslie Tomerlin, HMS Senior Center Coordinator, directly at (575) 542-9414 to learn more about upcoming, free community whole body wellness screenings for Hidalgo County seniors, age 60 and older, available at the HMS Senior Center in Lordsburg (location is 532 DeMoss Street). Hidalgo County seniors are always invited to visit the HMS Senior Center every Monday through Friday between 8:30am and 3:00pm. Lunch reservations are required one day prior and a donation of \$2.00 for each lunchtime meal is suggested and appreciated.

Please visit [www.hmsnm.org](http://www.hmsnm.org) to learn more about HMS services, providers, and locations.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Hidalgo Medical Services Introduces Its Family Medicine Residency Program Class of 2020**

Silver City, NM (March 31, 2017) – The Hidalgo Medical Services (HMS) Family Medicine Residency Program (FMRP) recently selected two, new resident family medicine physicians to begin their training with HMS in July 2017. Those doctors are Robert Aguero, MD, and Rory Keys, MD.

The HMS FMRP is a 1+2 residency program, meaning that 1st year residents complete their first year in a larger academic medical center and then complete their 2nd and 3rd years on-site at HMS. Both Doctors Aguero and Keys will complete their first year of residency at Memorial Medical Center in Las Cruces, and will complete their final, two years of residency training at the HMS Silver City Community Health Center.

Dr. Aguero is a graduate of the University of New Mexico School of Medicine. He is personally committed to public service, and he volunteers his free time with organizations that give back to their local communities. The rewarding feeling of helping others is the primary factor that motivated Dr. Aguero to become a medical doctor. Dr. Keys is a graduate of the Creighton University School of Medicine. He pursued an education as a family medicine physician because he appreciates the important role that family medicine physicians provide between their patients and the overall health care system. Dr. Keys looks forward to building lifelong relationships with patients, advocating for them, and serving as a teacher.

"The HMS FMRP seeks to train the next generation of family medicine primary care physicians in a rural community health center environment, and prepare them to practice in rural, underserved and frontier regions," stated Darrick Nelson, MD, HMS Chief Medical Officer and FMRP Director. Nelson added, "Family medicine residents are fully immersed in the patient-centered delivery care model and are a key component in delivering high quality, low cost care to community patients. The health career development pillar represented in HMS' organizational structure is a key to ensuring an ample health career workforce."

HMS is Hidalgo and Grant Counties' only federally qualified community health center and serves approximately 16,000 patients every year. "Recognized as New Mexico's first teaching health center, the HMS Family Medicine Residency Program continues to develop itself and its providers," stated Dan Otero, HMS Chief Executive Officer. "Providers in our community have come together and worked very hard over the last few years to ensure quality patient care and patient safety through our Family Medicine Residency Program," added Otero.

To learn more about HMS and its Family Medicine Residency Program, please visit [www.hmsnm.org](http://www.hmsnm.org) or <http://newmexicoresidencies.org/silver-city>.