Task Force Meets to Develop Ethics Course for Elected Officials

SANTA FE – Legislation introduced by Rep. Cote (D-Doña Ana) has led to the development of an ethics course for elected officials. Rep. Cote has worked with former Governor Garrey Carruthers, a member of the Governor’s Ethics Reform Task Force, and New Mexico State University to utilize recent grant money to establish an ethics training course.

Rep. Cote said, “This task force will design and implement an ethics education/training program for public officials to adhere to the public trust and stewardship of the common good of the community.” He added, “Ethics training should clarify and reinforce the understanding of a person’s ethical compass. Those of us in public service should always understand and be prepared to do what is right and what is expected of us regardless of the situation we find ourselves in.”

The first meeting of a task force led by Diane Prindebille will be held at the New Mexico State University center in Albuquerque.

“Task Force member and author Dr. Raymon Bruce said, “We are set to have a syllabus for training public officials on ethics. It is important that people new to office realize that public service ethics is different from private sector ethics. Our hope is that this course will eliminate a lot of mistakes and teach new officials that they are stewards of the public trust.”

This ethics course will be a part of required continuing education and orientation as a preventative approach that may aid elected officers and others who hold positions of public trust from unknowingly making decisions that violate laws, regulations or guidelines, or that otherwise may not be in the best interest of the public.

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