

**2023 APPROVED
WORK PLAN AND MEETING SCHEDULE
for the
LEGISLATIVE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE**

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Legislative Health and Humans Services Committee (LHHS)

The LHHS is a permanent joint committee of the legislature created pursuant to Section 2-13-1 NMSA 1978 and is responsible for studying the programs, agencies, policies and needs relating to health and human services, in addition to programs and services for children, families and the aging population.

Work Plan

At its organizational meeting, the LHHS chairs proposed and the members agreed to use the first three meetings of the interim as opportunities to focus on the following issues: the health care workforce; behavioral health, substance use and homelessness; and children and families.

During the first two days of each meeting, the committee will hear testimony from stakeholders, including national experts, state agencies, advocates and members of the public, pertaining to one of these issues. The committee will reserve the third day of each meeting to hear presentations on additional issues of concern.

At the end of each day, the committee chairs will lead a wrap-up session to discuss the issues that were heard that day. Members will be encouraged to engage in collaborative brainstorming sessions with the goal of identifying legislative action that is necessary to address the issues. The chairs will assign follow-up tasks and research questions to committee members and staff who will work together to craft proposed legislation for discussion at the subsequent

meeting. After receiving feedback, staff will work with the committee to revise the proposed legislation in time for the LHHS chairs to present it to the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) when the LFC considers budget priorities in the fall.

Health Care Workforce

At its July meeting, the committee will examine several strategies for expanding and improving the health care workforce in the state. The committee will invite representatives from higher education institutions across the state, including the University of New Mexico, New Mexico Highlands University, Western New Mexico University and New Mexico State University, to present on current and potential new programs for health care students. The LHHS will also discuss ways to streamline the reimbursement process and increase reimbursement for health care providers practicing in New Mexico. Additionally, the Higher Education Department (HED) will update the committee on its work to promote and expand the educational opportunities for students seeking to become health care professionals.

Behavioral Health, Substance Use and Homelessness

During its August 7-9 meeting, the LHHS will focus on addressing behavioral health, substance use and homelessness. The Department of Health (DOH) will be invited to update the committee on the operations at the New Mexico Behavioral Health Institute at Las Vegas and the progress of the department's harm reduction programs. The committee will also invite representatives from the Human Services Department (HSD) and the Interagency Behavioral Health Purchasing Collaborative to discuss the demand for and availability of behavioral health services. Additionally, the LHHS will hear testimony regarding services for substance use disorders, including the provision of medication-assisted treatment services in correctional facilities. The committee will also investigate methods for addressing the misuse of alcohol and tobacco.

Children and Families

During its August 28-30 meeting, the LHHS will investigate issues affecting children and families. The committee will hear from representatives from the Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD) and child welfare advocates to develop solutions that will ensure the safety of New Mexico's children and families.

Additional Issues of Concern

In addition to the issues that will be discussed during the committee's first three meetings, the LHHS will examine and receive presentations that address or include the following topics.

A. Agency Updates

The LHHS will invite the secretaries and leadership from the DOH; the HSD; the CYFD; the Aging and Long-Term Services Department; the HED; the Office of Superintendent of Insurance (OSI); the Interagency Behavioral Health Purchasing Collaborative; and the Early Childhood Education and Care Department to present on the implementation of new programs, legislative priorities and budgetary needs.

B. Aging and Long-Term Services

The LHHS will address several nursing home issues, including: liability insurance requirements, safe staffing practices and preventing the financial exploitation of nursing home residents. Additionally, the committee will invite representatives from the Alzheimer's Association to provide a presentation on the issues that are affecting people with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias.

C. Disabilities

The committee will invite the DOH to report on the status of various Medicaid waivers for individuals with disabilities. The committee will also address the demand for services and services available for people living with autism.

D. Environment and Public Health

The LHHS will evaluate the role that the environment plays in public health. For example, the committee will investigate the impact of the recent forest fires in New Mexico on physical and behavioral health.

E. Human Services

The LHHS will oversee multiple important transitions that are taking place in the human services sector. First, the committee will oversee the HSD's transition into becoming the Health Care Authority Department. The committee will be updated on the status of the department's social service programs, including Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and Medicaid. Additionally, the LHHS will investigate the impacts to social service programs resulting from the end of the federal COVID-19 public health emergency.

F. Pharmaceutical Drugs

The LHHS will continue its work to ensure that pharmaceutical drugs are affordable and accessible in New Mexico. The committee will hear testimony from the OSI to oversee the implementation of new legislative efforts to control pharmaceutical drug pricing and regulate pharmacy benefits managers. The committee will continue to identify potential new strategies for ensuring the affordability and accessibility of pharmaceutical drugs.

G. Previously Introduced Bills

The committee will hear testimony from sponsors who plan to reintroduce bills that were not signed into law.

H. Reporting

The committee will receive statutorily required and legislatively requested reports from various working groups and task forces. Task forces that are not required by statute to present a report to the LHHS will be asked to submit the task force's annual report to LHHS staff for email distribution to committee members.

I. School-Based Health Centers

The LHHS will invite the DOH to provide updates on the school-based health center programs in New Mexico.

J. Violent Crime and Public Health

The LHHS will examine the effects of violent crime and gun violence on public health. Furthermore, the committee will investigate methods to increase and improve services for victims of sexual assault and other violent crimes.

**Legislative Health and Human Services Committee
2023 Approved Meeting Schedule**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
June 12	Santa Fe
July 10-12	Farmington
August 7-9	Las Vegas
August 28-30	Albuquerque
September 18-20	Ruidoso
October 16-18	Las Cruces
November 28-December 1	Santa Fe