

**MINUTES
of the
FOURTH MEETING
of the
COURTS, CORRECTIONS AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE**

**August 25-27, 2025
Villanueva Victory Club
Stan Fulton Athletics Center
New Mexico State University
1815 Wells Street
Las Cruces**

The fourth meeting of the Courts, Corrections and Justice Committee was called to order by Senator Joseph Cervantes, chair, on August 25, 2025, at 9:45 a.m. at the Stan Fulton Athletics Center at New Mexico State University (NMSU) in Las Cruces.

Present

Sen. Joseph Cervantes, Chair
Rep. Christine Chandler, Vice Chair
Rep. Marianna Anaya
Rep. Janelle Anyanonu (8/25, 8/26)
Sen. Crystal Brantley
Rep. Nicole Chavez
Rep. William A. Hall II
Rep. Dayan Hochman-Vigil (8/25)
Sen. Nicholas A. Paul (8/25, 8/26)
Rep. Andrea Reeb
Rep. Andrea Romero
Sen. Antoinette Sedillo Lopez

Advisory Members

Rep. John Block
Rep. Eleanor Chávez (8/25, 8/26)
Rep. Joanne J. Ferrary
Rep. Tara L. Lujan (8/25)
Rep. Alan T. Martinez
Rep. Sarah Silva
Sen. Linda M. Trujillo

Absent

Sen. Antonio Maestas
Sen. Cindy Nava
Rep. Angelica Rubio

Rep. Gail Armstrong
Sen. Heather Berghmans
Rep. Cynthia Borrego
Sen. Katy Duhigg
Sen. Natalie Figueroa
Rep. Joy Garratt
Rep. Yanira Gurrola
Sen. Steve D. Lanier
Rep. Stefani Lord
Sen. Micaelita Debbie O'Malley
Rep. Debra M. Sariñana
Rep. Nathan P. Small
Sen. Mimi Stewart
Rep. Reena Szczepanski
Sen. Anthony L. Thornton
Sen. Peter Wirth

Guest Legislator

Rep. Micaela Lara Cadena (8/26, 8/27)

(Attendance dates are noted for members not present for the entire meeting.)

Staff

Nancy Martinez, Bill Drafter, Legislative Council Service (LCS)

Sean Dolan, Staff Attorney, LCS

Simon Suzuki, Staff Attorney, LCS

Domenica Nieto, Research Assistant, LCS

Guests

The guest list is in the meeting file.

Handouts

Handouts and other written testimony are in the meeting file and are posted on the legislature's website.

References to Webcast

The time reference noted next to each agenda item in this document is cross-referenced to the webcast of the committee meeting, which can be found at www.nmlegis.gov, under the "Webcast" tab. The presentations made and committee discussions for agenda items can be found on the recorded webcast for this meeting.

Monday, August 25**Welcome and Introductions (9:45 a.m.)**

Senator Cervantes welcomed members of the committee and members of the public to this meeting.

Welcome Remarks from NMSU (9:46 a.m.)

Valerio Ferme, president, NMSU, welcomed the committee to the university.

Second Amendment Revisited — Appealing New Mexico's Waiting Period Now in the Mix (10:02 a.m.)

Kyle Duffy, deputy general counsel, Office of the Governor, and Brandon Cummings, district legislative aide, Senate District 31, discussed the recent opinion of the federal Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals on New Mexico's gun sale waiting period statute, which ruled the statute unconstitutional. Mr. Duffy and Mr. Cummings discussed related rulings from other jurisdictions, as well as the litigation plan from the Office of Governor regarding appealing the ruling. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=CCJ&Date=8/25/2025&ItemNumber=2>.

At the Frontlines — Black Fences or Black Ops? United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Local Law Enforcement (10:47 a.m.)

Mario Juarez-Infante, city manager, City of Sunland Park, presented regarding the city's crime rates and immigration rates and ways in which the rates have changed compared to last year. Mr. Juarez-Infante also answered questions from committee members. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=CCJ&Date=8/25/2025&ItemNumber=3>.

The Curious Case of David Bonaventura (11:55 a.m.)

Mr. Cummings presented on Mr. Bonaventura, a New Mexico resident who has been arrested a total of 22 times. Mr. Cummings discussed the reasons for the arrests of Mr. Bonaventura and the final disposition of the cases.

Justice, Injustice and the Line Between Procedure and Policy — Dialogue on Case Management Orders (12:28 p.m.)

Fernando Macias, district attorney, Third Judicial District; Bennett J. Baur, chief public defender, Public Defender Department; the Honorable David K. Thomson, chief justice, New Mexico Supreme Court; the Honorable Conrad F. Perea, district court judge, Third Judicial District; Mr. Cummings; the Honorable Bryan Paul Biedscheid, district judge, First Judicial District; the Honorable Brett R. Loveless, district judge, Second Judicial District; and the Honorable Richard M. Jacquez, district judge, Third Judicial District, discussed their differing opinions regarding the effectiveness and need for case management orders, including different needs of certain districts. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=CCJ&Date=8/25/2025&ItemNumber=5>.

Artificial Intelligence (AI): An Array of Issues (2:23 p.m.)

A. Smart, Drunk, Confident and Biased — How AI Shapes Us (2:26 p.m.)

Melissa Warr, Ph.D., assistant professor, Educational Design and Learning Technologies, NMSU, discussed how AI is coded and the basis for how AI works.

B. Stopping AI Abuses: Protecting Families from Fraud, Price Hikes and Exploitation (2:42 p.m.)

Sam Levine, senior fellow, Center for Consumer Law and Economic Justice, University of California-Berkeley, and former director, Bureau of Consumer Protection, Federal Trade Commission, discussed various ways in which AI can be regulated, including issues involved with drafting proper regulations.

C. A Quick Conversation About Ethics and AI (3:17 p.m.)

Enrico Pontelli, Ph.D., senior advisor for artificial intelligence, NMSU, discussed possible ethical concerns with AI.

The panelists also answered questions from committee members. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=CCJ&Date=8/25/2025&ItemNumber=6>.

Committee Discussion (4:18 p.m.)

The committee held an open discussion on a potential tour of an immigration detention facility, issues with scheduling a tour and committee agenda items.

Approval of Minutes (5:06 p.m.)

On a motion duly made and seconded, the committee approved the minutes of the July 30-31, 2025 meeting.

Recess

The meeting recessed at 5:06 p.m.

Tuesday, August 26

Reconvene

Senator Cervantes reconvened the meeting at 9:10 a.m.

Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD) John Paul Taylor Center Overview (9:12 a.m.)

Valerie Sandoval, deputy secretary, Juvenile Justice and Protective Services, CYFD, and Annette Martinez, deputy director of facilities, Juvenile Justice, CYFD, presented an overview of the John Paul Taylor Center in preparation for the tour of the facility by committee members.

Tour of the John Paul Taylor Center (10:00 a.m.)

Members of the committee and staff toured the John Paul Taylor Center.

CYFD John Paul Taylor Center Overview (cont.) (12:10 p.m.)

Ms. Sandoval and Ms. Martinez answered questions from committee members regarding the John Paul Taylor Center.

House Bill 9 (2025) — The Enterprise of Housing Immigration Detainees by Local Governments (1:06 p.m.)

Senator Sedillo Lopez; Representative Chandler; Rebecca Sheff, senior staff attorney, American Civil Liberties Union of New Mexico; Holly Agajanian, chief general counsel, Office of the Governor; Jordan Barela, county manager, Torrance County; and R.B. Nichols, county attorney, Otero County, discussed prior legislation introduced regarding the regulation of federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention facilities in New Mexico, including the potential constitutional issues and effects on the local communities.

Revolving Door — Law Enforcement Perspective on Juvenile Crime Recidivism and Federal Prosecutions (3:26 p.m.)

Mark Renteria, sergeant, Las Cruces Police Department, and Benjamin Berling, officer, Las Cruces Police Department, presented detailed cases to the committee regarding juvenile violence in the Las Cruces area. The committee asked questions regarding specific cases and what possible legislation could be drafted to address the concerns. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=CCJ&Date=8/25/2025&ItemNumber=9>.

Committee Discussion (5:09 p.m.)

The committee held an open discussion on children's use of social media, the possibility of juvenile justice being a topic in a special session and potential topics for future meetings.

Recess

The meeting recessed at 5:20 p.m.

Wednesday, August 27

Reconvene

Senator Cervantes reconvened the meeting at 9:14 a.m.

Revolving Door — "Amenability" — Sentencing Juveniles as Adults and Juvenile Justice Legislation (9:18 a.m.)

Mr. Baur and Jeanne Quintero, deputy district attorney, Third Judicial District, discussed competency proceedings for juveniles, differences in proceedings between felonies and misdemeanors, rehabilitation of juveniles and differences between state competency proceedings for juveniles and the federal process and answered questions from committee members.

Committee Discussion (11:07 a.m.)

The committee held an open discussion on potential agenda items for future meetings.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 11:26 a.m.