

**MINUTES
of the
SECOND MEETING
of the
LEGISLATIVE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**June 16-18, 2026
Central New Mexico Community College
WORKforce Training Center
5600 Eagle Rock Avenue NE
Albuquerque**

The second meeting of the Legislative Health and Human Services Committee was called to order by Representative Elizabeth "Liz" Thomson, chair, on Tuesday, June 16, 2026, at 9:04 a.m. at the WORKforce Training Center at Central New Mexico Community College (CNM).

Present

Rep. Elizabeth "Liz" Thomson, Chair
Sen. Linda M. López, Vice Chair
Sen. Jay C. Block
Rep. Eleanor Chávez
Rep. Pamela Herndon
Rep. Jenifer Jones
Sen. Antoinette Sedillo Lopez

Absent

Sen. Larry R. Scott

Advisory Members

Rep. John Block
Rep. Kathleen Cates
Sen. Angel M. Charley (6/16, 6/17)
Rep. Nicole Chavez (6/17, 6/18)
Rep. Joanne J. Ferrary (6/16, 6/17)
Rep. Miguel P. García
Rep. Anita Gonzales (6/18)
Rep. Tara L. Lujan (6/16)
Sen. Shannon D. Pinto
Sen. Harold Pope
Rep. Patricia Roybal Caballero
Rep. Sarah Silva (6/16)
Sen. Elizabeth "Liz" Stefanics
Rep. E. Diane Torres-Velásquez (6/16)
Sen. Rex Wilson

Rep. Marianna Anaya
Rep. Christine Chandler
Sen. Katy Duhigg
Sen. David M. Gallegos
Sen. Martin Hickey
Rep. D. Wonda Johnson
Rep. Alan T. Martinez
Rep. Elaine Sena Cortez
Rep. Reena Szczepanski

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

Staff

Zander Dawson, Staff Attorney, Legislative Council Service (LCS)
Ian Keller, Staff Attorney, LCS
Grace Balderamos, Staff, LCS

Guests

The guest list is in the meeting file.

Handouts

Handouts and other written testimony are in the meeting file and 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.

Tuesday, June 16**Welcome and Introductions (9:04 a.m.)**

Representative Thomson welcomed everyone to the meeting. Committee members introduced themselves.

Welcome to CNM (9:11 a.m.)

Annette Chavez y De La Cruz, chair, Governing Board, CNM, and Tracy Hartzler, president, CNM, discussed CNM's vision for helping to enhance the state's health and human services workforce, particularly in rural and underserved areas. They described CNM's health and human services program offerings and staffing. They highlighted CNM's Brillante Early Learning Center, early childhood education programs and wraparound services offered to students.

Recap of Health and Human Services Legislation Passed During the 2026 Legislative Session (9:30 a.m.)

Mr. Dawson and Mr. Keller summarized the health- and human-services-related bills that passed during the 2026 legislative session, such as two interstate health care licensure compacts and legislation that amended the Medical Malpractice Act, the Prior Authorization Act and the Health Professional Loan Repayment Act. They provided overviews of the bills' respective backgrounds and expected outcomes of their enactment. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=6/16/2026&ItemNumber=2>.

Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) Performance Measures and Reporting (9:47 a.m.)

Helen Gaussoin, principal analyst, LFC, reviewed how performance measures of certain state agencies are determined for quarterly reporting pursuant to the Accountability in Government Act. She outlined the LFC's performance report cards for the third quarter of fiscal year (FY) 2027 for the Early Childhood Education and Care Department, the Aging and Long-Term Services Department (ALTSD), behavioral health services, the Health Care Authority

(HCA), the Department of Health (DOH) and the Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD). The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=6/16/2026&ItemNumber=3>.

LFC Post-Session Budget Review (10:47 a.m.)

Eric Chenier, M.P.A., principal analyst, LFC, discussed the 2025 federal budget reconciliation bill's impacts on the HCA's FY 2027 budget, including changes to Medicaid, the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and the Health Care Affordability Fund. Carlie Malone, J.D., Ph.D., fiscal analyst II, LFC, provided an overview of the CYFD's FY 2027 nonrecurring funding and operating budget for protective services, juvenile justice and behavioral health. Emily Hilla, fiscal analyst, LFC, summarized the DOH's budget for the upcoming fiscal year, including budget increases for laboratory services and facilities management. She also reviewed the ALTSD's budget for FY 2027 and noted funding for the department's New MexiCare Program. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=6/16/2026&ItemNumber=4>.

Approval of Minutes (12:04 p.m.)

Upon a motion made, and without any objections, the committee approved the minutes of the May 15, 2026 meeting.

Public Comment (12:09 p.m.)

A list of individuals making public comment is available in the meeting file.

Disengaged Youth Action Plan (2:00 p.m.)

Josh Chaffin, M.A.I.A., program evaluator, LFC, and Sarah Dinces, Ph.D., program evaluator III, LFC, shared a proposed action plan from the LFC to reduce the amount of disconnected youth, or people between the ages of 16 and 24 who do not work and are not enrolled in school or a training program, in the state. Action plan suggestions included increasing high school retention services, expanding outreach to disconnected youth to inform them of available programs and increasing community college and training program recruitment. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=6/16/2026&ItemNumber=5>.

Behavioral Health Costs and Utilization (3:21 p.m.)

Matt Goodlaw, program evaluator, LFC, gave a demonstration of an interactive data report developed by the LFC that showcased data and trends of the state's expenditures on and enrollees' participation in Medicaid Managed Care for behavioral health services from calendar years 2023 through 2025. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=6/16/2026&ItemNumber=6>.

Recess

The meeting recessed at 3:59 p.m.

Wednesday, June 17**Reconvene**

The meeting reconvened at 9:07 a.m.

From Pathways to Practice: CNM's Role in Advancing Behavioral Health Workforce Solutions (9:08 a.m.)

Joy Forehand, vice president of workforce and community success, CNM, and Amelia Milazzo, senior director of programs, CNM, provided information about CNM's associate of arts degree in human services and certificate of completion in substance abuse counseling. They highlighted CNM's social work degree pathways with state universities and CNM Ingenuity, Inc.'s Youth Care Worker Essentials training. They also discussed student apprenticeships and internships and CNM's collaborations with behavioral health organizations. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=6/16/2026&ItemNumber=7>.

Strengthening the Behavioral Health Workforce (10:30 a.m.)

Javier Benavidez, organizer, Coalition for a Safer Albuquerque; Deborah Bock, Coalition for a Safer Albuquerque; and Peter Cuba, attorney at law, offered suggestions for expanding the state's behavioral health workforce, such as creating a fund for pre-apprenticeships in behavioral health and apprenticeship career pathways. Their recommendations also included offering the state's opportunity scholarship to graduate students obtaining behavioral health degrees and increasing initiatives in community colleges to recruit students to pursue careers in behavioral health care. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=6/16/2026&ItemNumber=8>.

Public Comment (11:43 a.m.)

A list of individuals making public comment is available in the meeting file.

University of New Mexico (UNM) Health Sciences Center (HSC) Update (1:02 p.m.)

Patricia Finn, M.D., dean, UNM School of Medicine (SOM), discussed the planned clinical expansion of the UNM SOM after the construction of the new UNM SOM facility, which is expected to be completed in 2030. Stewart Livsie, associate director, Capital Projects, UNM HSC, shared plans for the design and construction of the new UNM SOM facility. Michael Richards, M.D., M.P.A., executive vice president, UNM HSC, and chief executive officer (CEO), UNM Health System, discussed graduate medical education at the UNM HSC,

rural medical residencies, HSC workforce initiatives and HSC leadership updates. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=6/16/2026&ItemNumber=9>.

Affordable and Accessible Housing Initiatives (2:40 p.m.)

Monet Silva, executive director, New Mexico Coalition to End Homelessness, and Rachel Biggs, CEO, Albuquerque Health Care for the Homeless, Inc., provided an overview of housing and homelessness in the state and country. They described their respective organizations' outreach to and offerings for homeless people. They offered recommendations for housing policy reform and discussed initiatives to improve housing stability and remove barriers to accessing housing. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=6/16/2026&ItemNumber=10>.

Project ECHO (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes) Update (3:58 p.m.)

Karla Thornton, M.D., M.P.H., executive director, Project ECHO, and professor of medicine, UNM HSC, provided an update on the activities and impacts of Project ECHO. She discussed Project ECHO's role in improving health outcomes for diabetes, hepatitis C, behavioral health, alcohol abuse and mental health. She reviewed Project ECHO's maternal and child health initiative and highlighted Project ECHO's Community Peer Education Project, which trains people in prison to work as peer educators. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=6/16/2026&ItemNumber=11>.

Medicaid Concerns in Intensive Outpatient Programs (4:32 p.m.)

Daniel Duhigg, D.O., medical director, Duke City Recovery Toolbox, discussed a program model in New Mexico in which access to recovery housing is dependent on participation in a certain mandated intensive outpatient program that is funded by Medicaid. He offered suggestions for addressing concerns related to the model. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=6/16/2026&ItemNumber=12>.

Recess

The meeting recessed at 5:06 p.m.

Thursday, June 18

Reconvene

The meeting reconvened at 9:08 a.m.

Solutions to Address Hospital and Independent Medical Practice Administrative Costs (9:10 a.m.)

Julius L. Chen, Ph.D., assistant professor, Department of Health Policy and Management, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University, reviewed the framework of prior authorization in New Mexico. Miriam Laugesen, Ph.D., associate professor, Department of Health Policy and Management, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University, discussed insurance credentialing of health care providers. They shared their research findings about hospital and independent medical practice administrative costs in New Mexico and provided policy recommendations for reducing those costs. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=6/16/2026&ItemNumber=13>.

Transitioning the Medicaid Fee Model (10:24 a.m.)

Michael K. Gusmano, Ph.D., professor, Department of Population Health, College of Health, Lehigh University, provided a presentation about Medicaid delivery and fee models. He described the results of Connecticut's Medicaid system's transition to an administrative services organization. He explained how slowly transitioning New Mexico's Medicaid system from a managed care organization model to an administrative services organization model could impact Medicaid access and costs. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=6/16/2026&ItemNumber=14>.

Safety in Recovery Housing Settings (11:25 a.m.)

Kurt D. Lebeck, M.A., M.S.W., L.M.S.W., executive director and president, New Mexico Society of Addiction Medicine, discussed the regulation of recovery housing in New Mexico. He outlined challenges faced by recovery residences in New Mexico and other states and provided information about the New Mexico Coalition of Recovery Residences. He explained how recovery residences become certified by the National Alliance for Recovery Residences and the American Society of Addiction Medicine. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=6/16/2026&ItemNumber=15>.

Presbyterian Health Plan Update (12:22 p.m.)

Ines Vigil, M.D., M.P.H., M.B.A., F.A.C.P.M., chief medical officer, Presbyterian Health Plan, and John Johnson, chief operations officer, Presbyterian Health Plan, discussed Presbyterian Healthcare Services' recent layoffs of more than 100 administrative employees and

discontinuation of most Medicare Advantage plans in 2027. They reviewed Presbyterian Healthcare Services' new reimbursement model for physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech language pathology.

Public Comment (12:59 p.m.)

A list of individuals making public comment is available in the meeting file.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 1:19 p.m.