

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

**May 21, 2026
State Capitol, Room 307
Santa Fe**

The first meeting of the Courts, Corrections and Justice Committee was called to order by Representative Christine Chandler, chair, on May 21, 2026 at 1:09 p.m. in Room 307 of the State Capitol in Santa Fe.

Present

Rep. Christine Chandler, Chair
Sen. Joseph Cervantes, Vice Chair
Rep. Marianna Anaya
Rep. Janelle Anyanonu
Rep. William A. Hall II
Sen. Antonio Maestas
Sen. Cindy Nava
Rep. Andrea Romero
Sen. James G. Townsend

Absent

Sen. Crystal Brantley
Rep. Nicole Chavez
Rep. Dayan Hochman-Vigil
Rep. Andrea Reeb
Rep. Angelica Rubio
Sen. Antoinette Sedillo Lopez

Advisory Members

Rep. John Block
Sen. Pat Boone
Rep. Cynthia Borrego
Rep. Eleanor Chávez
Sen. Natalie Figueroa
Rep. Yanira Gurrola
Rep. Tara L. Lujan
Rep. Alan T. Martinez
Sen. Micaelita Debbie O'Malley
Sen. Mimi Stewart
Sen. Linda M. Trujillo

Rep. Gail Armstrong
Sen. Heather Berghmans
Sen. Katy Duhigg
Rep. Joanne J. Ferrary
Rep. Joy Garratt
Sen. Steve D. Lanier
Rep. Stefani Lord
Rep. Debra M. Sariñana
Rep. Sarah Silva
Rep. Nathan P. Small
Rep. Reena Szczepanski
Sen. Peter Wirth

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.

Thursday, May 21

Welcome and Introductions (1:09 p.m.)

Representative Chandler welcomed members of the committee and the public to the meeting.

Proposed Interim Work Plan and Meeting Schedule (1:15 p.m.)

The committee discussed topics to focus on during the interim and the dates and locations of committee meetings.

Update on Litigation Regarding Universal Child Care (1:37 p.m.)

Holly Agajanian, chief general counsel, Office of the Governor, and Shelley Strong, general counsel, Early Childhood Education and Care Department, presented on the history of state funding for child care and recent and ongoing litigation regarding the legality of the universal child care program.

Update on Litigation Regarding Implementation of House Bill 9 (2026) (HB 9) (2:18 p.m.)

Ms. Agajanian provided an overview of HB 9, discussed recent developments regarding county and sheriff reactions to HB 9 and described the developments of litigation related to the legislation.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:54 p.m.