

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

**July 30, 2025
Inn of the Mountain Gods
287 Carrizo Canyon Road
Mescalero**

**July 31, 2025
Eastern New Mexico University-Roswell
52 University Boulevard
Roswell**

The third meeting of the Courts, Corrections and Justice Committee was called to order by Senator Joseph Cervantes, chair, on July 30 at 9:09 a.m. at Inn of the Mountain Gods in Mescalero.

Present

Sen. Joseph Cervantes, Chair (7/30)
Rep. Christine Chandler, Vice Chair
Rep. Marianna Anaya
Rep. Janelle Anyanonu
Sen. Crystal Brantley (7/30)
Rep. Nicole Chavez (7/30)
Rep. William A. Hall II
Sen. Nicholas A. Paul (7/30)
Rep. Andrea Reeb
Sen. Antoinette Sedillo Lopez

Advisory Members

Rep. John Block
Rep. Cynthia Borrego
Rep. Eleanor Chávez
Sen. Natalie Figueroa (7/30)
Sen. Linda M. Trujillo (7/30)

Absent

Rep. Dayan Hochman-Vigil
Sen. Antonio Maestas
Sen. Cindy Nava
Rep. Andrea Romero
Rep. Angelica Rubio

Rep. Gail Armstrong
Sen. Heather Berghmans
Sen. Katy Duhigg
Rep. Joanne J. Ferrary
Rep. Joy Garratt
Rep. Yanira Gurrola
Sen. Steve D. Lanier
Rep. Stefani Lord
Rep. Tara L. Lujan
Rep. Alan T. Martinez
Sen. Micaelita Debbie O'Malley
Rep. Debra M. Sariñana
Rep. Sarah Silva

Rep. Nathan P. Small
Sen. Mimi Stewart
Rep. Reena Szczepanski
Sen. Anthony L. Thornton
Sen. Peter Wirth

(Attendance dates are noted for those 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
Gabriel Suazo, Intern, 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.

Wednesday, July 30 — Mescalero

Welcome and Introductions (9:09 a.m.)

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

Welcome Remarks (9:09 a.m.)

Thora Walsh Padilla, president, Mescalero Apache Tribe, welcomed the committee to the Inn of the Mountain Gods and answered questions from committee members regarding the tribe, including alcohol use, crime and gun laws.

Gun Law Update and Federal Limitation on Liability on Manufacturers and Dealers (9:40 a.m.)

Brandon Cummings, district legislative aide, Senate District 31, presented an overview of federal gun laws and court opinions, including recent federal and state opinions. Mr. Cummings discussed past proposed firearms-related bills that did not pass and discussed how they might fare based on recent court opinions. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=CCJ&Date=7/30/2025&ItemNumber=2>.

Possible New Crime Legislation from the Governor (10:44 a.m.)

Holly Agajanian, chief general counsel, Office of the Governor, presented a list of ideas the governor may want to pursue in upcoming sessions. Ms. Agajanian answered questions from committee members regarding proposed legislation she mentioned and heard additional ideas from the committee members.

Approval of Minutes (11:33 a.m.)

On a motion duly made and seconded, the committee approved the minutes of the June 30-July 1, 2025 meeting.

Fair Access to Insurance Requirements (FAIR) Update and Proximate Cause Insurance Coverage (11:34 a.m.)

Alice Kane, superintendent of insurance, Office of Superintendent of Insurance, and Melissa Grandon, vice chair, Governing Committee, New Mexico Property Insurance Program, presented a review of the FAIR program, including what is and is not working, potential changes and judicial opinions, and answered committee members' questions. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=CCJ&Date=7/30/2025&ItemNumber=4>.

The Missouri Juvenile Justice Model and Its Intersection with New Mexico (1:22 p.m.)

Senator Trujillo presented a history and overview of the system for youth justice in Missouri, compared the model to New Mexico and discussed ways in which New Mexico may move toward the same system as Missouri. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=CCJ&Date=7/30/2025&ItemNumber=5>.

Committee Discussion (3:23 p.m.)

The committee held an open discussion on issues including data regarding addiction treatment, juvenile crime, potential legislation for upcoming sessions and topics for upcoming meetings.

Recess

The meeting recessed at 3:35 p.m.

Thursday, July 31 — Roswell**Reconvene**

Representative Chandler reconvened the meeting at 10:01 a.m.

Welcome to Roswell (10:01 a.m.)

Shawn Powell, Ph.D., president, Eastern New Mexico University-Roswell, welcomed the committee to Eastern New Mexico University-Roswell and answered questions from the committee regarding the university.

Setbacks and Solutions to Corrections in Chaves County (10:05 a.m.)

Bill Williams, manager, Chaves County; Clint McLain, lieutenant, Chaves County Detention Center; and Michael Brisco, detention administrator, Chaves County Detention Center, spoke of the recent successes and struggles of corrections facilities in Chaves County, including adult and youth facilities, staffing levels at the facilities and what resources the facilities need, and the panel answered questions from committee members regarding the facilities.

Juvenile Justice and Treatment (11:28 a.m.)

Dianna Luce, district attorney, Fifth Judicial District; Corey Adams, deputy director, Juvenile Justice Field Services, Children, Youth and Families Department; and Jennifer Barela, deputy chief of operations, Law Offices of the Public Defender, presented their respective views on what systematic issues are plaguing the area regarding juvenile crime, what solutions there may be and potential barriers to those solutions.

Courthouse Security Staffing Concerns (1:11 p.m.)

The Honorable David K. Thomson, chief justice, New Mexico Supreme Court; Pete Golden, chief deputy, Bernalillo County Sheriff's Office; and Aaron Williamson, undersheriff, Bernalillo County Sheriff's Office, discussed the issues regarding staffing the security for the court, which is causing the court to have shorter hours. The panelists discussed how the issue got to this point and possible solutions and answered questions from committee members.

Corrections Department (2:20 p.m.)

Alisha Tafoya Lucero, secretary, Corrections Department; Mark Lovato, general counsel, Corrections Department; and Wence Asonganyi, health services administrator, Corrections Department, discussed health programs and initiatives within the department, pilot programs regarding substance abuse treatment and recent court opinions that affect the Corrections Department and answered questions from committee members.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:48 p.m.