

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

**August 7-8, 2023
Student Union Ballroom
New Mexico Highlands University
800 National Avenue
Las Vegas**

**August 9, 2023
New Mexico Behavioral Health Institute at Las Vegas
3695 Hot Springs Boulevard
Las Vegas**

The third meeting of the Legislative Health and Human Services Committee was called to order by Senator Gerald Ortiz y Pino, chair, on Monday, August 7, 2023, at 9:10 a.m. in the Student Union Ballroom at New Mexico Highlands University (NMHU) in Las Vegas.

Present

Sen. Gerald Ortiz y Pino, Chair
Rep. Elizabeth "Liz" Thomson, Vice Chair
Rep. Eleanor Chávez
Sen. Martin Hickey
Rep. Jenifer Jones (8/8, 8/9)

Absent

Sen. David M. Gallegos
Rep. Pamelya Herndon
Sen. Antoinette Sedillo Lopez

Advisory Members

Rep. John Block
Rep. Kathleen Cates (8/7, 8/8)
Rep. Gail Chasey (8/8)
Sen. Linda M. Lopez (8/7, 8/8)
Rep. Tara L. Lujan (8/9)
Rep. Alan T. Martinez (8/7)
Sen. Shannon D. Pinto (8/8)
Sen. Harold Pope
Sen. Nancy Rodriguez
Rep. Harlan Vincent

Sen. Katy M. Duhigg
Rep. Joanne J. Ferrary
Rep. Miguel P. García
Sen. Siah Correa Hemphill
Rep. Tara Jaramillo
Rep. D. Wonda Johnson
Rep. Stefani Lord
Rep. Patricia Roybal-Caballero
Sen. Gregg Schmedes
Sen. Elizabeth "Liz" Stefanics
Rep. Reena Szczepanski
Sen. Bill Tallman

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

Staff

Zander Dawson, Staff Attorney, Legislative Council Service (LCS)
Andrea Lazarow, Bill Drafter, 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.

Monday, August 7 — NMHU, Las Vegas**Welcome and Introductions (9:10 a.m.)**

Senator Ortiz y Pino welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited members of the committee and staff to introduce themselves.

Welcome to NMHU (9:15 a.m.)

Sam Minner, Ph.D., president, NMHU, welcomed the committee to NMHU and provided an update about the university. He discussed recruitment and retention of students and staff, expansion of academic programs, mental health initiatives and community engagement.

Health Care Authority Department (HCA) Behavioral Health Update (10:07 a.m.)

Alex Castillo Smith, deputy secretary, HCA; Nick Boukas, director, Behavioral Health Services Division, HCA, and acting chief executive officer (CEO), Interagency Behavioral Health Purchasing Collaborative; and Amy Whitfield, special director, Office of the Governor, provided agency updates regarding behavioral health. They discussed Medicaid's role in behavioral health care in New Mexico, opioid use disorder treatment and prevention, housing and homelessness. The presenters outlined the state's role in providing accessible housing and creating housing stability. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=8/7/2023&ItemNumber=2>.

Public Comment (12:13 p.m.)

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

Department of Health (DOH) Harm Reduction Program (12:07 p.m.)

Josh Swatek, program manager, Hepatitis and Harm Reduction Program, Public Health Division, DOH, and Arya Lamb, policy director, DOH, presented about the DOH's Harm Reduction Program, which provides services for health promotion, intervention and overdose reversal. They explained overdose trends in New Mexico and how harm reduction services can be modernized to address the fentanyl abuse crisis. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/LHHS%20080723%20Item%203%20DOH%20Harm%20Reduction.pdf>.

Coalition for a Safer ABQ (1:48 p.m.)

Peter Cubra, attorney at law, described the background and mission of the Coalition for a Safer ABQ and how the coalition interacts with the city of Albuquerque and Bernalillo County to address community safety. He stressed the coalition's desire for New Mexico to develop a comprehensive strategic plan for bettering outcomes for people with behavioral health problems. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/LHHS%20080723%20Item%204%20Coalition%20for%20a%20Safer%20ABQ.pdf>.

100% San Miguel Behavioral Health Initiatives (3:10 p.m.)

Matt Probst, P.A.-C., director, Rural Community Engagement, University of New Mexico (UNM) Health Sciences Center Office for Community Health (OCH), and medical action team leader, 100% San Miguel; Melissa Duran, behavioral health action team leader, 100% San Miguel; and Chris Lopez, sheriff, San Miguel County, and public safety action team leader, 100% San Miguel, presented about the 100% San Miguel Behavioral Health Initiative and the OCH. They discussed initiatives by the OCH and 100% San Miguel to support youth, such as implementing school-based health centers, developing programs that combat adverse childhood experiences and expanding access to different types of counseling. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=8/7/2023&ItemNumber=5>.

Brainstorming Session (4:41 p.m.)

Senator Ortiz y Pino led the committee in a brainstorming session focused on potential legislation that could address the issues presented to the committee.

Recess

The meeting recessed at 5:16 p.m.

Tuesday, August 8 — NMHU, Las Vegas

Reconvene

The meeting reconvened at 9:12 a.m.

Improving Mental Health in Schools (9:13 a.m.)

Dan Frampton, L.C.S.W., president, Board of Directors, Breaking the Silence New Mexico, presented about mental health in schools, including the mental health of students, school staff and parents of students. He discussed identifying students in need of mental health services and improving access to mental health resources for youths. He emphasized the importance of schools providing school-based mental health services. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/LHHS%20080723%20Item%206%20Breaking%20the%20Silence.pdf>.

Social Workers Addressing Behavioral Health, Substance Abuse and Homelessness (10:23 a.m.)

Mika Tari, L.M.S.W., executive director, National Association of Social Workers-New Mexico, explained the National Association of Social Workers' initiatives to address behavioral health, substance abuse and homelessness. She emphasized that treatment and prevention both begin with education. She discussed the national shortage of social workers, how New Mexico compares to other states in services supplied and bureaucratic difficulties that social workers face in becoming licensed and practicing.

City of Albuquerque Family and Community Services (10:56 a.m.)

Carol Pierce, M.S.N., director, Family and Community Services Department, City of Albuquerque; Joseph Montoya, deputy director of housing, Family and Community Services Department, City of Albuquerque; Maria Wolfe, coordinator, Public Safety ECHO, City of Albuquerque; Mariela Ruiz-Angel, M.B.A., director, Albuquerque Community Safety, City of Albuquerque; and Gilbert Gallegos, director of communications and community outreach, Albuquerque Police Department, presented about family and community services in Albuquerque and how the city collaborates with the state and Bernalillo County to provide those services. They discussed the demographics of the city's homeless population, the first responder system and the need to expand housing and family services in Albuquerque. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=8/7/2023&ItemNumber=8>.

Housing and Homelessness Panel (1:01 p.m.)

Monet Silva, executive director, New Mexico Coalition to End Homelessness; Winter Torres, director, New Mexico Eviction Prevention and Diversion Program; and Serge Martinez, associate dean of experiential learning and professor of law, UNM School of Law, and co-founder, New Mexico Center for Housing Law, presented about nationwide skyrocketing

housing prices and the community trauma caused by lack of housing that is affordable. They discussed eviction practices, housing subsidies, increasing and maintaining access to housing in New Mexico and potential funding sources. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=8/7/2023&ItemNumber=9>.

Behavioral Health Programs (2:30 p.m.)

Al Galves, psychologist, and member, Board of Directors, Community Service Corps, and Marylou Bonacci, chief of operations, Southwest Counseling Center, Inc., presented about Soteria House in Las Cruces and Southwest Counseling Center, Inc.'s Los Amigos transitional housing in Las Cruces. They discussed the background of Soteria houses around the country and gave information about the support services that Soteria House in Las Cruces and Los Amigos provide. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=8/7/2023&ItemNumber=10>.

New Mexico Behavioral Health Providers (3:42 p.m.)

Stacy Martin, CEO, Santa Fe Recovery Center, and Jeanette Espinoza, director of outpatient services, Peak Behavioral Health, presented about the Santa Fe Recovery Center, Peak Behavioral Health and the New Mexico Behavioral Health Providers Association and discussed the services they provide. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=8/7/2023&ItemNumber=11>.

Approval of Minutes (4:27 p.m.)

Upon a motion made and duly seconded, and without any objections, the committee approved the minutes of the July 10-12, 2023 meeting.

Public Comment (4:28 p.m.)

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

Brainstorming Session (4:37 p.m.)

Senator Ortiz y Pino led the committee in a brainstorming session focused on potential legislation that could address the issues presented to the committee.

Recess

The meeting recessed at 4:55 p.m.

Wednesday, August 9 — New Mexico Behavioral Health Institute at Las Vegas

Reconvene

The meeting reconvened at 10:24 a.m.

Tour and Reception at the New Mexico Behavioral Health Institute at Las Vegas (10:26 a.m.)

Committee members and staff toured the facilities of the New Mexico Behavioral Health Institute at Las Vegas.

New Mexico Behavioral Health Institute at Las Vegas Presentation (11:04 a.m.)

Tim Shields, administrator, New Mexico Behavioral Health Institute at Las Vegas, and Patrick Allen, secretary, DOH, presented about the New Mexico Behavioral Health Institute at Las Vegas. They gave a brief overview about its recent history. They provided information about the institute's campus, facilities, patients and staffing needs. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/LHHS%20080723%20Item%2012%20Behavioral%20Health%20Institute.pdf>.

Bernalillo County Behavioral Health Initiative (12:14 p.m.)

Jessica Jaramillo, interim director, Department of Behavioral Health Services, Bernalillo County, and Pamela Acosta, senior program manager, Behavioral Health Initiative, Bernalillo County, provided an overview about the Bernalillo County Behavioral Health Initiative and its governance structure, services, facilities and partnerships. They provided information about the services provided by Bernalillo County's Department of Behavioral Health Services' Comprehensive Assessment and Recovery through Excellence campus. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=8/7/2023&ItemNumber=13>.

Brainstorming Session (1:48 p.m.)

Senator Ortiz y Pino led the committee in a brainstorming session focused on potential legislation that could address the issues presented to the committee.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:14 p.m.