



NEW MEXICO LEGISLATURE

LEGISLATIVE HEALTH
AND HUMAN SERVICES
COMMITTEE

2025 INTERIM FINAL REPORT

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SERVICE
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INTERIM SUMMARY

Legislative Health and Human Services Committee 2025 Interim Summary

During the 2025 interim, the Legislative Health and Human Services Committee held seven meetings across the state, in Santa Fe, Las Vegas, Gallup, Las Cruces and Albuquerque. The committee focused on improving the health care workforce, expanding access to health services, addressing behavioral health and substance use, evaluating child welfare and juvenile justice systems and reviewing policies affecting health and human services statewide.

The committee received presentations from universities, state agencies and community organizations on workforce development, clinical training, recruitment and retention in health care. Updates on Medicaid, hospital finance, medical malpractice and innovative care models, including Project ECHO, informed discussions on improving health care access and affordability.

Behavioral health and substance use were central topics addressed by the committee. The committee reviewed medication-assisted treatment programs, opioid settlement planning, school-based behavioral health initiatives and community intervention programs. Child welfare and juvenile justice updates addressed the *Kevin S.* settlement, proposed reforms to the Children's Code and services for justice-involved youth.

The committee also examined developmental disabilities services, food security, early childhood programs and housing stability. Presenters highlighted challenges in service delivery, workforce support and community-based programs. Throughout the interim, members discussed opportunities for legislative or budgetary solutions to improve health system coordination and outcomes.

WORK PLAN AND MEETING SCHEDULE

2025 APPROVED
WORK PLAN AND MEETING SCHEDULE
for the
LEGISLATIVE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Members

Rep. Elizabeth "Liz" Thomson, Chair
Sen. Linda M. López, Vice Chair
Sen. Jay C. Block
Rep. Eleanor Chávez

Rep. Pamelya Herndon
Sen. Martin Hickey
Rep. Jenifer Jones
Sen. Larry R. Scott

Advisory Members

Rep. Marianna Anaya
Rep. John Block
Rep. Kathleen Cates
Rep. Christine Chandler
Sen. Angel M. Charley
Rep. Nicole Chavez
Sen. Katy Duhigg
Rep. Joanne J. Ferrary
Sen. David M. Gallegos
Rep. Miguel P. García
Rep. Anita Gonzales
Rep. D. Wonda Johnson

Rep. Tara L. Lujan
Rep. Alan T. Martinez
Sen. Shannon D. Pinto
Sen. Harold Pope
Rep. Patricia Roybal Caballero
Sen. Antoinette Sedillo Lopez
Rep. Elaine Sena Cortez
Rep. Sarah Silva
Sen. Elizabeth "Liz" Stefanics
Rep. Reena Szczepanski
Rep. E. Diane Torres-Velásquez

Work Plan

The Legislative Health and Human Services Committee is a permanent joint committee of the legislature created pursuant to Section 2-13-1 NMSA 1978 and is responsible for studying the programs, agencies, policies and needs relating to health and human services, in addition to programs and services for children, families and the aging population. In the 2025 interim, as time permits, the committee will address the following topics:

A. Child Welfare:

1. overseeing the implementation of child welfare legislation passed during the 2025 legislative session;
2. continued engagement with key stakeholders to assess potential strategies for improving the state's child welfare system;
3. improving prevention services for at-risk youth; and
4. investigating ways to better leverage the Early Childhood Education and Care Department's Family Infant Toddler Program;

B. Behavioral Health:

1. overseeing the implementation of behavioral health legislation passed during the 2025 legislative session;
2. expanding drug misuse prevention and early intervention programs;
3. overseeing the expenditure of opioid settlement funds; and
4. improving collaboration between the state and local governments on the provision of behavioral health care services;

C. Disability Issues:

1. improving the accessibility of state buildings and websites; and
2. monitoring federal actions that could affect funding for programs related to any of the developmental disability waiver programs;

D. Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault:

1. expanding domestic violence and sexual assault prevention programs; and
2. enhancing the services and resources available to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault;

E. Environmental Impacts on Health Care:

1. investigating the impact of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances on the health of New Mexico residents; and
2. evaluating the current and future impacts of climate change on the health care system in the state;

F. Health Care Consumer Protections:

1. protecting health care data and overseeing the rapidly expanding use of artificial intelligence in health care; and
2. increasing pricing transparency for health care services;

G. Health Care Workforce:

1. evaluating ways to improve licensing and credentialing for health care professionals, including a closer look at how to make interstate professional licensure compacts work for New Mexico;
2. assessing the medical malpractice system in New Mexico; and
3. expanding medical residency programs and supporting preceptors;

H. Housing:

1. expanding affordable and supportive housing opportunities; and
2. providing mobile support services to unhoused persons;

I. Medicaid:

1. monitoring federal actions related to Medicaid funding and devising legislation to address any shortfalls in funding; and
2. investigating ways to improve Medicaid funding for health care providers;

J. Nutrition:

1. monitoring federal actions related to food assistance programs and devising legislation to address any shortfalls in funding; and
2. improving the nutritional value of food provided in schools, jails and prisons;

K. Rural Health Care:

1. addressing rural health care provider shortages, especially on tribal lands; and
2. leveraging school-based health centers to provide rural health care; and

L. Other Health and Human Services Issues:

1. as necessary, examining other issues relevant to health and human services.

**Legislative Health and Human Services Committee
2025 Approved Meeting Schedule**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
May 20	Santa Fe
June 25-27	Santa Fe
July 21-23	Las Vegas
August 18-20	Gallup
September 10-12	Las Cruces
October 6-9	Albuquerque
November 5-7	Santa Fe

AGENDAS AND MINUTES

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

**May 20, 2025
State Capitol, Room 322
Santa Fe**

The first meeting of the Legislative Health and Human Services Committee (LHHS) was called to order by Representative Elizabeth "Liz" Thomson, chair, on Tuesday, May 20, 2025, at 9:21 a.m. in Room 322 of the State Capitol in Santa Fe.

Present

Rep. Elizabeth "Liz" Thomson, Chair
Sen. Linda M. López, Vice Chair
Rep. Eleanor Chávez
Rep. Pamela Herndon
Sen. Larry R. Scott

Absent

Sen. Jay C. Block
Sen. Martin Hickey
Rep. Jenifer Jones

Advisory Members

Rep. Marianna Anaya
Rep. John Block
Rep. Kathleen Cates
Rep. Joanne J. Ferrary
Sen. David M. Gallegos
Rep. Miguel P. García
Rep. Anita Gonzales
Rep. Tara L. Lujan
Sen. Shannon D. Pinto
Sen. Harold Pope
Rep. Patricia Roybal Caballero
Sen. Elizabeth "Liz" Stefanics

Sen. Angel M. Charley
Rep. Nicole Chavez
Sen. Katy Duhigg
Rep. D. Wonda Johnson
Rep. Alan T. Martinez
Sen. Antoinette Sedillo Lopez
Rep. Elaine Sena Cortez
Rep. Sarah Silva
Rep. Reena Szczepanski
Rep. E. Diane Torres-Velásquez

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.

Tuesday, May 20

Welcome and Introductions (9:21 a.m.)

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

LHHS 2025 Work Plan and Meeting Schedule: Presentation and Member Discussion (9:41 a.m.)

Committee members proposed topics for the committee to prioritize during the 2025 interim and suggested potential meeting locations.

Motions to Send Letters (10:58 a.m.)

On a motion made by Representative Chávez, seconded by Representative Herndon and objected to by Senator Scott, the committee voted to send a letter to the state's congressional delegation to express opposition to the proposed 10-year moratorium on state artificial intelligence legislation that is being considered as part of a congressional budget reconciliation bill. On a motion made by Senator López and seconded by Representative Chávez, and without objection, the committee voted to send a letter to the Health Care Authority to express concern regarding how appropriations intended to provide raises to direct support professionals are being used.

Public Comment (11:16 a.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 11:47 a.m.

Revised: June 24, 2025

**TENTATIVE AGENDA
for the
SECOND MEETING
of the
LEGISLATIVE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**June 25-27, 2025
State Capitol, Room 322
Santa Fe**

Wednesday, June 25

- 9:15 a.m. **Call to Order and Introductions**
—Representative Elizabeth "Liz" Thomson, Chair, Legislative Health and
Human Services Committee (LHHS)
—Senator Linda M. López, Vice Chair, LHHS
- 9:30 a.m. (1) **[Recap of Legislation Endorsed by the LHHS During the 2024 Interim](#)**
—Zander Dawson, Staff Attorney, Legislative Council Service (LCS)
—Andrea Lazarow, Bill Drafter, LCS
- 10:30 a.m. (2) **[Developmental Disabilities Overview](#)**
—Alice Liu McCoy, Executive Director, New Mexico Developmental
Disabilities Council
- 11:45 a.m. **Public Comment***
- 12:00 noon **Lunch**
- 1:00 p.m. (3) **[Update on Federal Actions Pertaining to Health and Human Services:
Executive Orders](#)**
—Zander Dawson, Staff Attorney, LCS
- 2:00 p.m. (4) **[Health Care Workforce Update](#)**
—Harry Rommel, Fiscal Analyst, Legislative Finance Committee (LFC)
- 2:30 p.m. (5) **[Administrative Office of the Courts \(AOC\) Behavioral Health Update](#)**
—Esperanza Lucero, Behavioral Health Integration and Reform
Administrator, AOC
—Karl Reifsteck, Director, AOC
- 4:00 p.m. **Recess**

Thursday, June 26

- 8:45 a.m. **Reconvene**
- 9:00 a.m. (6) **Services for the Unhoused in Santa Fe County**
—Henri M. Hammond-Paul, Director, Community Health and Safety, City of Santa Fe
- 10:00 a.m. (7) **Recap of Child Welfare Legislation Passed During the 2025 Legislative Session**
—Rachel Mercer-Garcia, Principal Analyst, LFC
—Zander Dawson, Staff Attorney, LCS
—Andrea Lazarow, Bill Drafter, LCS
- 10:30 a.m. (8) **Early Childhood Education and Care Department (ECECD) Update**
—Elizabeth Groginsky, Secretary, ECECD
- 12:00 noon **Lunch**
- 1:00 p.m. **Public Comment***
- 1:15 p.m. (9) **Opioid Settlement Update**
A. Attorney General Overview
—Julie Meade, General Counsel, State Department of Justice
B. Santa Fe County
—Wade Ellis, Deputy Warden, Santa Fe County Adult Detention Facility (SFCADF)
—Rebecca Otero Granger, Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner, SFCADF
—Derek Williams, Warden, SFCADF
C. Department of Health (DOH)
—Joshua Swateck, Policy Manager, Policy and Communications Division, DOH
- 2:15 p.m. (10) **School-Based Health Centers Update**
—Nancy Rodriguez, Executive Director, New Mexico Alliance for School-Based Health Care
—Kristin Oreskovich, D.N.P., C.N.P., Clinical Operations Manager, School-Based Health Center Program, Public Health Division, DOH
- 3:15 p.m. (11) **Health Care Affordability Fund Evaluation**
—Matt Goodlaw, Program Evaluator, LFC
—Alex Castillo Smith, Deputy Secretary, Health Care Authority (HCA)
—Colin Baillio, Director, Health Care Coverage Innovations, HCA
- 4:30 p.m. **Recess**

Friday, June 27

9:15 a.m. **Reconvene**

9:30 a.m. (12) **HCA Developmental Disabilities Supports Division (DDSD) Update**
—Kari Armijo, Secretary, HCA

10:45 a.m. (13) **Opioid Settlement Update**
—Nick Boukas, Director, Behavioral Health Services Division, HCA

11:45 a.m. **Public Comment***

12:00 noon **Lunch**

1:00 p.m. (14) **Recap of Appropriations Made During the 2025 Legislative Session That Pertain to Health and Human Services**
—Eric Chenier, Principal Analyst, LFC
—Kelly Klundt, Principal Analyst, LFC

2:00 p.m. (15) **Overview of Behavioral Health and Medicaid Systems in New Mexico**
—Eric Chenier, Principal Analyst, LFC

3:00 p.m. **Adjourn**

*Members of the public may make virtual public comments during the public comment period of the meeting by following the instructions under the "Additional Information" section of the LHHS [web page](#).

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

**June 25-27, 2025
State Capitol, Room 322
Santa Fe**

The second meeting of the Legislative Health and Human Services Committee (LHHS) was called to order by Representative Elizabeth "Liz" Thomson, chair, on Wednesday, June 25, 2025, at 9:20 a.m. in Room 322 of the State Capitol in Santa Fe.

Present

Rep. Elizabeth "Liz" Thomson, Chair
Sen. Linda M. López, Vice Chair
Sen. Jay C. Block (6/25, 6/27)
Rep. Eleanor Chávez
Rep. Jenifer Jones (6/25, 6/26)
Sen. Larry R. Scott

Absent

Rep. Pamilya Herndon
Sen. Martin Hickey

Advisory Members

Rep. Marianna Anaya
Rep. John Block
Rep. Kathleen Cates
Rep. Christine Chandler
Rep. Nicole Chavez (6/25, 6/27)
Sen. David M. Gallegos (6/26, 6/27)
Rep. Miguel P. García (6/26)
Rep. Tara L. Lujan (6/26)
Sen. Shannon D. Pinto
Sen. Harold Pope
Rep. Patricia Roybal Caballero (6/26, 6/27)
Sen. Antoinette Sedillo Lopez
Sen. Elizabeth "Liz" Stefanics

Sen. Angel M. Charley
Sen. Katy Duhigg
Rep. Joanne J. Ferrary
Rep. Anita Gonzales
Rep. D. Wonda Johnson
Rep. Alan T. Martinez
Rep. Elaine Sena Cortez
Rep. Sarah Silva
Rep. Reena Szczepanski
Rep. E. Diane Torres-Velásquez

(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.

Wednesday, June 25

Welcome and Introductions (9:20 a.m.)

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

Recap of Legislation Endorsed by the LHHS During the 2024 Interim (9:28 a.m.)

Mr. Dawson and Ms. Lazarow reviewed legislative actions taken during the 2025 session regarding legislation endorsed by the committee during the 2024 interim. Twenty-four of the 27 bills endorsed by the committee were introduced. Eight of the introduced bills were signed by the governor, and 16 of the introduced bills either did not pass or were not signed by the governor. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=6/25/2025&ItemNumber=1>.

Developmental Disabilities Overview (10:18 a.m.)

Alice Liu McCoy, executive director, New Mexico Developmental Disabilities Council, discussed resources and services in New Mexico for people with developmental disabilities, including programs administered by state agencies and services provided by the New Mexico Developmental Disabilities Council. She described waiver programs that are available and noted emerging concerns about disability rights and protections at the federal level. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=6/25/2025&ItemNumber=2>.

Public Comment (11:36 a.m.)

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

Approval of Minutes (11:41 a.m.)

Upon a motion made, and without any objections, the committee approved the minutes of the May 20, 2025 meeting.

Update on Federal Actions Pertaining to Health and Human Services: Executive Orders (12:33 p.m.)

Mr. Dawson provided an overview of executive orders and presidential memoranda that have been issued regarding health and human services since January 20, 2025. He described potential changes to the climate of health care in New Mexico that could arise from recent and future presidential actions. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=6/25/2025&ItemNumber=3>.

Health Care Workforce Update (1:10 p.m.)

Harry Rommel, fiscal analyst, Legislative Finance Committee (LFC), discussed health care workforce trends and projected shortages and surpluses of health care practitioners in the state by 2030. He explained caveats of state and national health care workforce data sources and highlighted metrics of health professional shortage areas. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=6/25/2025&ItemNumber=4>.

Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) Behavioral Health Update (1:58 p.m.)

Karl Reifsteck, director, AOC; Esperanza Lucero, behavioral health integration and reform administrator, AOC; and Sarah Jacobs, deputy director, AOC, provided an update on the AOC's implementation of the provisions of the Behavioral Health Reform and Investment Act, which passed during the 2025 legislative session. They shared a preliminary time line of expected progress in sequential intercept mapping and designating behavioral health regions. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=6/25/2025&ItemNumber=5>.

Recess

The meeting recessed at 2:58 p.m.

Thursday, June 26

Reconvene

The meeting reconvened at 9:13 a.m.

Services for the Unhoused in Santa Fe County (9:14 a.m.)

Henri M. Hammond-Paul, director, Community Health and Safety, City of Santa Fe, discussed homelessness in Santa Fe and described the City of Santa Fe's emergency homelessness action plan. Objectives of the plan include expanding non-congregate shelter options, deploying trauma-informed outreach teams and enhancing collaboration among

government agencies, service providers and faith-based institutions. The presentation materials can be found here:

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

Recap of Child Welfare Legislation Passed During the 2025 Legislative Session (10:24 a.m.)

Rachel Mercer-Garcia, deputy director, Program Evaluation, LFC; Mr. Dawson; and Ms. Lazarow presented about the Office of Child Advocate Act, the Federal Benefits for Children in State Custody Act and Senate Bill 42 (2025), which all passed during the 2025 session. They reviewed child welfare trends and funding for the Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD). The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=6/25/2025&ItemNumber=7>.

Early Childhood Education and Care Department (ECECD) Update (11:16 a.m.)

Elizabeth Groginsky, secretary, ECECD, provided a presentation about programs at, services offered by and agencies within the ECECD. She shared an overview of the department's budget and data about child care assistance. Some of the topics discussed included early childhood special education, home visiting, the family infant toddler program and pre-kindergarten funding. The presentation materials can be found here:

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

Public Comment (12:47 p.m.)

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

Opioid Settlement Update (1:02 p.m.)

Julie Meade, general counsel, State Department of Justice, and Joshua Swateck, policy manager, Policy and Communications Division, Department of Health (DOH), noted that funds from national and independent opioid settlements in New Mexico are allocated for opioid abatement and remediation purposes. Derek Williams, warden, Santa Fe County Adult Detention Facility (SFCADF), discussed the SFCADF's uses of opioid settlement revenue and goals for expanding reentry, crisis stabilization and detox services. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=6/25/2025&ItemNumber=9>.

School-Based Health Centers Update (2:22 p.m.)

Nancy Rodriguez, executive director, New Mexico Alliance for School-Based Health Care, and Kristin Oreskovich, D.N.P., C.N.P., clinical operations manager, School-Based Health Center Program, Public Health Division, DOH, discussed the economic and health impacts that

school-based health centers have on communities. There are more than 100 school-based health centers throughout the state, and the DOH hopes to expand services to additional schools in the Albuquerque Public School District by partnering with mobile health organizations. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=6/25/2025&ItemNumber=10>.

Health Care Affordability Fund Evaluation (3:26 p.m.)

Matt Goodlaw, program evaluator, LFC, presented the LFC's evaluation of the performance of the Health Care Affordability Fund. Key findings included that the fund's revenue from the health insurance premium surtax substantially surpasses health insurance subsidy needs and that the Health Care Authority (HCA) could expand performance measures of the fund. Alex Castillo Smith, deputy secretary, HCA, and Colin Baillio, director, Health Care Coverage Innovations, HCA, highlighted the success of the fund and noted that the fund could be a tool to maintain and increase health care coverage for New Mexico residents amid federal funding cuts to Medicaid. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=6/25/2025&ItemNumber=11>.

Recess

The meeting recessed at 4:13 p.m.

Friday, June 27

Reconvene

The meeting reconvened at 9:20 a.m.

HCA Developmental Disabilities Supports Division (DDSD) Update (9:25 a.m.)

Kari Armijo, secretary, HCA, and Jennifer Rodriguez, director, DDSD, HCA, discussed the results of the HCA's first biennial cost study that was conducted pursuant to House Bill 395 (2023). They noted that the HCA implemented all rate increase recommendations from the study, including provider rate increases and rate increases for the Developmental Disabilities Waiver, the Medically Fragile Waiver and the Mi Via Self-Directed Waiver. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=6/25/2025&ItemNumber=12>.

Opioid Settlement Update (10:43 a.m.)

Nick Boukas, director, Behavioral Health Services Division, HCA, discussed the division's use of opioid settlement funds, which includes overseeing the division's Fresh Start Rental Assistance Program and expanding services, including telehealth services, for

medication-assisted treatment for people with opioid use disorder. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=6/25/2025&ItemNumber=13>.

Public Comment (11:41 a.m.)

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

Recap of Appropriations Made During the 2025 Legislative Session That Pertain to Health and Human Services (12:35 p.m.)

Eric Chenier, principal analyst, LFC, and Kelly Klundt, assistant director, LFC, reviewed recurring and nonrecurring health and human services-related appropriations made during the 2025 legislative session to the HCA, the CYFD, the DOH and the ECECD. They highlighted appropriations for child welfare and behavioral health, noting multiyear special appropriations to the CYFD and that the legislature appropriated \$350.4 million to the HCA for behavioral health-related expenditures. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=6/25/2025&ItemNumber=14>.

Overview of Behavioral Health and Medicaid Systems in New Mexico (1:44 p.m.)

Mr. Chenier provided an overview of Medicaid and behavioral health services and spending in New Mexico. He explained the makeup of New Mexico's Medicaid system and reviewed Medicaid enrollment and financing, behavioral health needs and funding and cost drivers and trends. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=6/25/2025&ItemNumber=15>.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:23 p.m.

Revised: July 21, 2025

**TENTATIVE AGENDA
for the
THIRD MEETING
of the
LEGISLATIVE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**July 21-23, 2025
New Mexico Highlands University
Student Union Ballroom
800 National Avenue
Las Vegas**

Monday, July 21

- 9:00 a.m. **Call to Order and Introductions**
—Representative Elizabeth "Liz" Thomson, Chair, Legislative Health and Human Services Committee (LHHS)
—Senator Linda M. López, Vice Chair, LHHS
- 9:15 a.m. (1) **New Mexico Highlands University (NMHU) Health Care Programs**
—Geri Glover, Ph.D., L.P.C.C., N.C.C., R.P.T.-S., Interim Dean, School of Education, NMHU
—Anna Nelson, Ph.D., L.C.S.W., Dean, Facundo Valdez School of Social Work, and Associate Professor, NMHU
—Rachell Tenorio, Ph.D., Interim Director, Native American Social Work Studies Institute, NMHU
—Valerie Valles-Pedroza, L.C.S.W., Interim Director, Center for Excellence in Social Work, Facundo Valdez School of Social Work, NMHU
- 10:30 a.m. (2) **It's Never Too Early to Start Preparing for Health Care Careers**
A. Semillas de Salud (Getting Kids Interested in Health Care Careers)
—Matt Probst, P.A.-C., Director of Rural Community Engagement, Office for Community Health, University of New Mexico (UNM)
B. Clinical Rotation Opportunities in School-Based Health Centers
—Kristin Oreskovich, D.N.P., C.N.P., Clinical Operations Manager, School-Based Health Center Program, Public Health Division, Department of Health
—Matt Probst, P.A.-C., Director of Rural Community Engagement, Office for Community Health, UNM
—Tim Dodge, School-Based Clinic Coordinator, Sunrise Clinics
- 12:00 noon **Public Comment***

- 12:30 p.m. **Working Lunch**
- (3) **Status and Demonstration of the Health Care Workforce Dashboard**
—Mary Pinnell, Data Storytelling and Visualization Specialist, Institute for Complex Additive Systems Analysis, New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology
- 1:30 p.m. (4) **New Mexico Behavioral Health Institute at Las Vegas Update, Including New Psychiatric Residencies**
—Nicole Mandall, M.P.H., Chief Executive Officer (CEO), New Mexico Primary Care Training Consortium
—Tim Shields, Executive Director and Hospital Administrator, New Mexico Behavioral Health Institute at Las Vegas
- 2:30 p.m. (5) **Transitional Housing and Support**
—RubyAnn Esquibel, Principal Analyst, Legislative Finance Committee (LFC)
—Emily Hilla, Fiscal Analyst, LFC
- 3:30 p.m. (6) **Opioid Settlement Funds in San Miguel and Mora Counties**
—Joy Ansley, Manager, San Miguel County
—Christopher L. Lopez, Sheriff, San Miguel County
—Veronica Serna, County Commissioner, District One, Mora County

4:30 p.m. **Recess**

Tuesday, July 22

- 9:00 a.m. (7) **Behavioral Health Providers Association of New Mexico**
—Maggie McCowen, M.B.A., L.I.S.W., Executive Director, Behavioral Health Providers Association of New Mexico
—Stacy J. Romero, L.P.C.C., CEO, Kids Counseling, Inc.
—Pamela Stanley, L.P.C.C., A.C.T., Associate Principal, Health Management Associates
- 10:30 a.m. (8) **Evaluation of Opportunities for New Mexico Pharmaceutical Purchasing Improvements**
—Dorothy Moller, Health Policy Consultant, DMoller Associates
- 11:45 a.m. **Public Comment***
- 12:00 noon **Lunch**

- 1:00 p.m. (9) [Alzheimer's Association Update](#)
—Donald Smithburg, Executive Director, Alzheimer's Association, New Mexico Chapter
—Tommy Hernandez, Public Policy Director, Alzheimer's Association, New Mexico Chapter
- 2:00 p.m. (10) [Recruiting Health Care Professionals](#)
—Jerry N. Harrison, Ph.D., Executive Director, New Mexico Health Resources, Inc.
- 3:00 p.m. (11) [Luna Community College Behavioral Health Programs](#)
—Carol Linder, Ph.D., President, Luna Community College
—Raymond Sanchez, Director, Montañas del Norte Area Health Education Center, Health Extension Regional Officer, UNM Office for Community Health
- 4:00 p.m. **Recess**

Wednesday, July 23

- 9:00 a.m. (12) [Anchorum Health and Wellness Initiative](#)
—Arielle Hawney, Anchorum Fellow, Las Vegas, New Mexico Community Foundation
- 10:00 a.m. (13) [San Miguel County Family and Community Health Council](#)
—Raymond Sanchez, Director, Montañas del Norte Area Health Education Center; Health Extension Regional Officer, UNM Office for Community Health
- 11:00 a.m. (14) [Alta Vista Regional Hospital](#)
—Helen E. Ballantyne, M.P.H., R.N., CEO, Alta Vista Regional Hospital
—Ed Henry, Chief Public Policy Officer, Alta Vista Regional Hospital
- 12:00 noon **Public Comment***
- 12:15 p.m. **Adjourn**

*Members of the public may make virtual public comments during the public comment period of the meeting by following the instructions under the "Additional Information" section of the LHHS [web page](#).

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

**July 21-23, 2025
New Mexico Highlands University
Student Union Ballroom
800 National Avenue
Las Vegas**

The third meeting of the Legislative Health and Human Services Committee was called to order by Representative Elizabeth "Liz" Thomson, chair, on Monday, July 21, 2025, at 9:10 a.m. in the Student Union Ballroom at New Mexico Highlands University (NMHU) in Las Vegas.

Present

Rep. Elizabeth "Liz" Thomson, Chair
Sen. Linda M. López, Vice Chair
Sen. Jay C. Block (7/21)
Rep. Eleanor Chávez (7/22)
Rep. Pamela Herndon

Absent

Sen. Martin Hickey
Rep. Jenifer Jones
Sen. Larry R. Scott

Advisory Members

Rep. Marianna Anaya
Rep. John Block
Rep. Kathleen Cates (7/22, 7/23)
Rep. Miguel P. García (7/21)
Rep. Anita Gonzales
Rep. Tara L. Lujan (7/21)
Sen. Shannon D. Pinto (7/21, 7/22)
Sen. Harold Pope (7/22, 7/23)
Rep. Patricia Roybal Caballero (7/21, 7/22)
Sen. Antoinette Sedillo Lopez (7/22, 7/23)
Sen. Elizabeth "Liz" Stefanics (7/21, 7/22)
Rep. E. Diane Torres-Velásquez (7/21, 7/23)

Rep. Christine Chandler
Sen. Angel M. Charley
Rep. Nicole Chavez
Sen. Katy Duhigg
Rep. Joanne J. Ferrary
Sen. David M. Gallegos
Rep. D. Wonda Johnson
Rep. Alan T. Martinez
Rep. Elaine Sena Cortez
Rep. Sarah Silva
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)
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, July 21

Welcome and Introductions (9:10 a.m.)

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

NMHU Health Care Programs (9:18 a.m.)

Geri Glover, Ph.D., L.P.C.C., N.C.C., R.P.T.-S., interim dean, School of Education, NMHU; Anna Nelson, Ph.D., L.C.S.W., dean, Facundo Valdez School of Social Work, and associate professor, NMHU; Rachell Tenorio, Ph.D., interim director, Native American Social Work Studies Institute, NMHU; and Valerie Valles-Pedroza, L.C.S.W., interim director, Center for Excellence in Social Work, Facundo Valdez School of Social Work, NMHU, welcomed the committee to NMHU and provided presentations about the university's programs in social work, counseling and clinical psychology. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=7/21/2025&ItemNumber=1>.

It's Never Too Early to Start Preparing for Health Care Careers (10:40 a.m.)

Matt Probst, P.A.-C., director of rural community engagement, Office for Community Health, University of New Mexico (UNM); Kristin Oreskovich, D.N.P., C.N.P., clinical operations manager, School-Based Health Center Program, Public Health Division, Department of Health (DOH); and Tim Dodge, school-based clinic coordinator, Sunrise Clinics, described initiatives to encourage middle school, high school and undergraduate students to consider careers in health care, with an emphasis on students involved in Semillas de Salud and school-based health centers. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=7/21/2025&ItemNumber=2>.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Status and Demonstration of the Health Care Workforce Dashboard (12:33 p.m.)

Mary Pinnell, data storytelling and visualization specialist, Institute for Complex Additive Systems Analysis, New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, and Jeriah McKenna, research scientist, Institute for Complex Additive Systems Analysis, New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, provided a demonstration of the Institute for Complex Additive Systems Analysis' health care workforce dashboard, which is an interactive dashboard that contains data about the retention rates and supply and demand of physicians, nurses and emergency medical technicians in New Mexico. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=7/21/2025&ItemNumber=3>.

New Mexico Behavioral Health Institute at Las Vegas Update, Including New Psychiatric Residencies (1:23 p.m.)

Tim Shields, executive director and hospital administrator, New Mexico Behavioral Health Institute at Las Vegas, provided an update on the New Mexico Behavioral Health Institute at Las Vegas, including patient treatment data and tentative time lines of the construction of new facilities. Nicole Mandall, M.P.H., chief executive officer (CEO), New Mexico Primary Care Training Consortium, and Mr. Probst provided an overview of current and potential academic partnerships between the New Mexico Behavioral Health Institute at Las Vegas and UNM and NMHU. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=7/21/2025&ItemNumber=4>.

Transitional Housing and Support (2:54 p.m.)

RubyAnn Esquibel, principal analyst, Legislative Finance Committee (LFC), and Emily Hilla, fiscal analyst, LFC, discussed the housing landscape in New Mexico, the broader region and the country. They provided an overview of housing and support services in the City of Albuquerque and Bernalillo County and statewide and a status update on nonrecurring appropriations related to housing and homelessness. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=7/21/2025&ItemNumber=5>.

Opioid Settlement Funds in San Miguel and Mora Counties (4:08 p.m.)

Mr. Probst discussed substance abuse and youth mental health and wellness in San Miguel County. Joy Ansley, manager, San Miguel County, and Veronica Serna, commissioner, District 1, Mora County Board of County Commissioners, explained how funding from opioid settlement revenue is being expended in their respective counties, including examples of projects and programs that are funded by those settlements. Mr. Probst, Ms. Ansley and Ms. Serna

described the impact of opioid usage on their respective communities. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=7/21/2025&ItemNumber=6>.

Recess

The meeting recessed at 4:54 p.m.

Tuesday, July 22

Reconvene

The meeting reconvened at 9:06 a.m.

Behavioral Health Providers Association of New Mexico (9:07 a.m.)

Maggie McCowen, M.B.A., L.I.S.W., executive director, Behavioral Health Providers Association of New Mexico, discussed behavioral health reform. Stacy J. Romero, L.P.C.C., CEO, Kids Counseling, Inc., provided information about Kids Counseling, Inc., a children's core service agency that provides wraparound services, child psychiatric services and family support services. They discussed short-term and potential long-term impacts of federal funding cuts to Medicaid on behavioral health services in New Mexico. Ms. McCowen and Pamela Stanley, L.P.C.C., A.C.T., associate principal, Health Management Associates, discussed behavioral health metrics. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=7/21/2025&ItemNumber=7>.

Evaluation of Opportunities for New Mexico Pharmaceutical Purchasing Improvements (10:44 a.m.)

Dorothy Moller, health policy consultant, DMoller Associates, presented a report about pharmaceutical purchasing policy reform. Her report reviewed the evolution of pharmaceutical markets, drug utilization and costs, international pharmaceutical management, stakeholder engagement, pharmaceutical planning and policies in other states and platforms and frameworks for reform. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=7/21/2025&ItemNumber=8>.

Public Comment (12:37 p.m.)

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

Alzheimer's Association Update (1:03 p.m.)

Donald Smithburg, executive director, Alzheimer's Association, New Mexico Chapter; Tommy Hernandez, public policy director, Alzheimer's Association, New Mexico Chapter; and

Angelina Flores-Montoya, deputy secretary, Aging and Long-Term Services Department, discussed Alzheimer's disease in New Mexico and presented data and state- and federal-level policy priorities regarding researching and treating Alzheimer's disease. They noted that a workgroup created pursuant to House Memorial 53 (2025) will have its first meeting in late July 2025. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=7/21/2025&ItemNumber=9>.

Recruiting Health Care Professionals (1:59 p.m.)

Jerry N. Harrison, Ph.D., executive director, New Mexico Health Resources, Inc., and Melissa Candelaria, chief operating officer, New Mexico Health Resources, Inc., provided an overview of the services provided by New Mexico Health Resources, Inc. They discussed challenges of recruiting health care professionals to New Mexico, reviewed loan repayment and salary support programs and provided funding proposals. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=7/21/2025&ItemNumber=10>.

Luna Community College Behavioral Health Programs (3:07 p.m.)

Carol Linder, Ph.D., president, Luna Community College, and Erick Wright, director, Allied Health and Public Service, Luna Community College, provided information about Luna Community College's allied health certificate offerings, which include a licensed substance abuse associate program, a certified nursing assistant program and an emergency medical technician-basic program. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=7/21/2025&ItemNumber=11>.

Recess

The meeting recessed at 3:32 p.m.

Wednesday, July 23

Reconvene

The meeting reconvened at 9:09 a.m.

Anchorum Health and Wellness Initiative (9:10 a.m.)

Arielle Hawney, Anchorum fellow, Las Vegas, New Mexico Community Foundation, presented about the Anchorum Health and Wellness Initiative, a partnership among the Anchorum Health Foundation and community foundations, including the Las Vegas, New Mexico Community Foundation. She noted that a women's health task force was developed in

2025 and discussed the findings of a survey conducted by the task force. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=7/21/2025&ItemNumber=12>.

San Miguel County Family and Community Health Council (10:09 a.m.)

Raymond Sanchez, director, Montañas del Norte Area Health Education Center, and health extension regional officer, UNM Office for Community Health, highlighted the San Miguel County Family and Community Health Council's community outreach. The council strives to increase health equity, reduce substance abuse and adverse childhood experiences and improve mental, physical and behavioral health in San Miguel County.

Alta Vista Regional Hospital (10:57 a.m.)

Ed Henry, chief public policy officer, Alta Vista Regional Hospital, provided information about Dava Health, Inc., a Tennessee-based nonprofit company that owns Alta Vista Regional Hospital and three other rural hospitals, and Java Medical Group, which partners with Dava Health, Inc. to try to safeguard rural hospitals. Helen E. Ballantyne, M.P.H., R.N., CEO, Alta Vista Regional Hospital, provided an update on the services available, amount and types of health care providers, service expansion initiatives and challenges at Alta Vista Regional Hospital. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=7/21/2025&ItemNumber=14>.

Public Comment (12:16 p.m.)

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

Adjournment

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 12:22 p.m.

Revised: August 14, 2025

**TENTATIVE AGENDA
for the
FOURTH MEETING
of the
LEGISLATIVE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**August 18-20, 2025
University of New Mexico-Gallup
705 Gurley Avenue
Gallup**

Monday, August 18

- 9:00 a.m. **Call to Order and Introductions**
—Representative Elizabeth "Liz" Thomson, Chair
—Senator Linda M. López, Vice Chair
- 9:15 a.m. (1) **[Welcome to the University of New Mexico \(UNM\)-Gallup](#)**
—Sabrina Ezzell, Chancellor, University of UNM-Gallup
—Jonathan Lumibao, Director, Nursing Program, UNM-Gallup
- 10:15 a.m. (2) **[Medication-Assisted Treatment Program Evaluation](#)**
—John Valdez, Program Evaluator, Legislative Finance Committee (LFC)
—Maggie Klug, Program Evaluator, LFC
- 11:15 a.m. (3) **[Juvenile Justice Overview](#)**
—Carlie Malone, Analyst, LFC
- 12:15 p.m. **Lunch**
- 1:15 p.m. (4) **[Child Welfare Update](#)**
—Kari Armijo, Secretary, Health Care Authority (HCA)
—Teresa Casados, Secretary, Children, Youth and Families Department
—Gina DeBlassie, Secretary, Department of Health
- 2:45 p.m. (5) **[HCA Federal Funding Update](#)**
—Kari Armijo, Secretary, HCA
- 4:00 p.m. (6) **[McKinley County Opioid Settlement Update](#)**
—Anthony Dimas Jr., County Manager, McKinley County
- 5:00 p.m. **Public Comment***
- 5:15 p.m. **Recess**

Tuesday, August 19

- 9:15 a.m. (7) **[Analysis of the Medical Claims and Billing System in New Mexico](#)**
—Melanie S. Sonntag, Ph.D., Research Assistant Professor, UNM Center for Social Policy
—Gabriel R. Sanchez, Ph.D., Executive Director, UNM Center for Social Policy
- 10:15 a.m. (8) **[Alcohol Harms Alleviation Coalition](#)**
—Representative Joanne J. Ferrary
—Senator Shannon D. Pinto
- 11:45 a.m. **Public Comment***
- 12:00 noon **Lunch**
- 1:00 p.m. (9) **[Evaluation of University Workforce Endowments](#)**
—Clayton Lobaugh, Program Evaluator II, LFC
—Josh Chaffin, Program Evaluator, LFC
- 2:30 p.m. (10) **[Kevin S. Settlement Update](#)**
—George Davis, M.D., Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist
—Jesse Clifton, Staff Attorney, Disability Rights New Mexico
—Bette Fleishman, Executive Director, Pegasus Legal Services for Children
—Therese Yanan, Executive Director, Native American Disability Law Center
- 4:00 p.m. **Recess**

Wednesday, August 20

- 9:00 a.m. (11) **[Services for Victims of Domestic Violence in Gallup](#)**
—Emily Ellison, Executive Director, Battered Families Services, Inc.
—Ken Collins, Executive Director, Hozho Center for Personal Enhancement
—Percy Anderson, Board Chair, Hozho Center for Personal Enhancement
- 10:00 a.m. (12) **[Rehoboth McKinley Christian Health Care Services \(RMCHCS\) Update](#)**
—Representative D. Wonda Johnson
—David McGrail, Chief Financial Officer, RMCHCS
—Jeff Linck, Vice President of Quality, Compliance and Risk, RMCHCS
- 11:00 a.m. (13) **[Early Childhood Tribal Advisory Coalition](#)**
—Joannie M. Suina, M.J.I.L., Ed.D., Assistant Secretary for Native American Early Childhood Education and Care, Early Childhood Education and Care Department

12:00 noon

Adjourn

*Members of the public may make virtual public comments during the public comment period of the meeting by following the instructions under the "Additional Information" section of the Legislative Health and Human Services Committee [web page](#).

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

**August 18-20, 2025
University of New Mexico-Gallup
705 Gurley Avenue
Gallup**

The fourth meeting of the Legislative Health and Human Services Committee was called to order by Representative Elizabeth "Liz" Thomson, chair, on Monday, August 18, 2025, at 9:24 a.m. at the University of New Mexico (UNM)-Gallup in Gallup.

Present

Rep. Elizabeth "Liz" Thomson, Chair
Sen. Linda M. López, Vice Chair
Rep. Eleanor Chávez
Rep. Jenifer Jones (8/18, 8/19)

Absent

Sen. Jay C. Block
Rep. Pamela Herndon
Sen. Martin Hickey
Sen. Larry R. Scott

Advisory Members

Rep. Marianna Anaya
Rep. John Block
Sen. Angel M. Charley (8/18, 8/19)
Rep. Nicole Chavez (8/18, 8/19)
Rep. Joanne J. Ferrary
Rep. Anita Gonzales (8/18)
Rep. D. Wonda Johnson
Rep. Tara L. Lujan (8/20)
Rep. Alan T. Martinez (8/18, 8/19)
Sen. Shannon D. Pinto
Sen. Harold Pope
Rep. E. Diane Torres-Velásquez (8/18, 8/20)

Rep. Kathleen Cates
Rep. Christine Chandler
Sen. Katy Duhigg
Sen. David M. Gallegos
Rep. Miguel P. García
Rep. Patricia Roybal Caballero
Sen. Antoinette Sedillo Lopez
Rep. Elaine Sena Cortez
Rep. Sarah Silva
Sen. Elizabeth "Liz" Stefanics
Rep. Reena Szczepanski

Guest Legislator

Rep. Patricia A. Lundstrom (8/18)

(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 18

Welcome and Introductions (9:24 a.m.)

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

Welcome to UNM-Gallup (9:28 a.m.)

Sabrina Ezzell, chancellor, UNM-Gallup, discussed the associate degrees and certificates in allied health and human services offered by UNM-Gallup. Jonathan Lumibao, director, Nursing Program, UNM-Gallup, noted the steady enrollment in the branch campus's nursing program and support services offered to students, such as financial aid and on-campus child care. They described UNM-Gallup's collaboration with the Gallup-McKinley County School District to encourage high school students to pursue careers in health care and human services.

Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) Program Evaluation (10:11 a.m.)

Maggie Klug, program evaluator, Legislative Finance Committee (LFC), and John Valdez, program evaluator, LFC, presented the LFC's program evaluation of MAT in public health offices. Findings included that the Department of Health (DOH) has provided MAT to more than 300 patients in public health offices, most of those treatments were paid for by Medicaid and most public health offices do not have staff dedicated to MAT. Gina DeBlassie, secretary, DOH, noted that mobile health units have been purchased to provide MAT and that the department plans to expand marketing efforts. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=8/18/2025&ItemNumber=2>.

Juvenile Justice Overview (11:31 a.m.)

Carlie Malone, senior fiscal analyst, LFC, described data trends regarding juvenile justice system referrals, juvenile delinquent referrals, secure facilities and populations, recidivism, risk assessment and dually involved youth and reviewed previous LFC recommendations. Corey Adams, deputy director, Juvenile Justice Field Services, Children, Youth and Families

Department (CYFD), provided an update on dually involved youth, department staffing and department initiatives regarding juvenile justice. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=8/18/2025&ItemNumber=3>.

Child Welfare Update (1:18 p.m.)

Kari Armijo, secretary, Health Care Authority (HCA); Secretary DeBlassie; and Teresa Casados, secretary, CYFD, outlined the interagency collaboration among their respective departments and the Early Childhood Education and Care Department (ECECD) in administering the provisions of the federal Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2016 (CARA) and Senate Bill 42 (2025). They described plans of safe care for substance-exposed newborns and explained CARA-related data, procedures, care coordination and hospital engagement. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=8/18/2025&ItemNumber=4>.

HCA Federal Funding Update (2:27 p.m.)

Secretary Armijo reviewed expected impacts of the 2025 federal budget reconciliation bill on Medicaid and the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program in New Mexico. She explained the authority's plans to address federal funding changes and the potential role of the Health Care Affordability Fund in protecting coverage gains. Secretary Armijo noted efforts to increase staffing at the HCA's Income Support Division and improve staff training in preparation for the anticipated increased administrative burden after federal funding changes are implemented. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=8/18/2025&ItemNumber=5>.

Public Comment (3:39 p.m.)

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

Recess

The meeting recessed at 3:55 p.m.

Tuesday, August 19

Reconvene

The meeting reconvened at 9:20 a.m.

Analysis of the Medical Claims and Billing System in New Mexico (9:21 a.m.)

Melanie S. Sonntag, Ph.D., research assistant professor, UNM Center for Social Policy, explained the process of prior authorization and presented the UNM Center for Social Policy's research findings from focus groups of clinicians and claims professionals regarding billing,

coding and claims systems. Findings included frustration among clinicians with the amount of time spent on billing- and insurance-related tasks that could be spent seeing patients and that decisions made by insurance companies interfere with patient care. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=8/18/2025&ItemNumber=7>.

Alcohol Harms Alleviation Coalition (10:23 a.m.)

Representative Ferrary; Senator Pinto; and Debra Martinez, program manager, Behavioral Health, City of Gallup, discussed recent and proposed legislative initiatives related to alcohol harms alleviation. They compared data of alcohol use in New Mexico to alcohol use in other states, discussed the increase in alcohol-related mortality in the state and described the statewide economy of alcohol sales. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=8/18/2025&ItemNumber=8>.

Public Comment (11:22 a.m.)

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

Evaluation of University Workforce Endowments (1:02 p.m.)

Clayton Lobaugh, program evaluator, LFC, presented the LFC's program evaluation of the use and impact of endowment appropriations for higher education nursing, teacher education and social work programs. Findings included underspending of endowment funds by New Mexico universities and delays in and implementation issues of spending money from endowment funds. Stephanie Rodriguez, secretary, Higher Education Department (HED), shared HED data about endowment appropriations and enrollment in and student completion of nursing, teacher education and social work programs. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=8/18/2025&ItemNumber=9>.

Kevin S. Settlement Update (2:31 p.m.)

Therese Yanan, executive director, Native American Disability Law Center; George Davis, M.D., child and adolescent psychiatrist; and Jesse Clifton, staff attorney, Disability Rights New Mexico, reviewed recent legal actions resulting from the *Kevin S.* settlement and discussed the settlement's history and legacy. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=8/18/2025&ItemNumber=10>.

Recess

The meeting recessed at 4:10 p.m.

Wednesday, August 20

Reconvene

The meeting reconvened at 9:12 a.m.

Services for Victims of Domestic Violence in Gallup (9:13 a.m.)

Emily Ellison, executive director, Battered Families Services, Inc.; Sabrina Martine, operations director, Battered Families Services, Inc.; Dianne Nakai, program manager, Battered Families Services, Inc.; Noreen Kelly; and Ken Collins, executive director, Hozho Center for Personal Enhancement, discussed the domestic abuse climate in western New Mexico and highlighted the role of Battered Families Services, Inc. in the community, its facility needs and services offered.

Rehoboth McKinley Christian Health Care Services (RMCHCS) Update (9:58 a.m.)

Jeff Linck, vice president of quality, compliance and risk, RMCHCS, and David McGrail, chief financial officer, RMCHCS, discussed challenges faced by RMCHCS, including increased medical malpractice premiums, concerns about facilities and difficulties recruiting and retaining physicians. They noted the hospital's participation in a risk retention group and discussed the Patient's Compensation Fund. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=8/18/2025&ItemNumber=12>.

Early Childhood Tribal Advisory Coalition (11:00 a.m.)

Joannie M. Suina, M.J.I.L., Ed.D., assistant secretary for Native American early childhood education and care, ECECD, provided an update on the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Native American Early Childhood Education and Care and the Early Childhood Tribal Advisory Coalition. She described Native American early childhood centers and highlighted the coalition's goals and successful collaborations with 19 of the state's Indian nations, tribes and pueblos. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=8/18/2025&ItemNumber=13>.

Public Comment (11:48 a.m.)

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

Adjournment

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 11:59 a.m.

Revised: September 10, 2025

**TENTATIVE AGENDA
for the
FIFTH MEETING
of the
LEGISLATIVE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**September 10-12, 2025
Villanueva Victory Club
Stan Fulton Athletic Center
New Mexico State University
1815 Wells Street
Las Cruces**

Wednesday, September 10

- 9:00 a.m. **Call to Order and Introductions**
—Representative Elizabeth "Liz" Thomson, Chair
—Senator Linda M. López, Vice Chair
- 9:15 a.m. (1) **[New Mexico State University \(NMSU\) Program Updates](#)**
—Alexa Doig, Ph.D., R.N., Director, School of Nursing, NMSU
—Rick Marlatt, Dean, College of Health, Education and Social
Transformation, NMSU
- 10:45 a.m. (2) **[Food Security](#)**
—RubyAnn Esquibel, Principal Analyst, Legislative Finance Committee
(LFC)
—Alma Kassim, Program Evaluator, LFC
- 12:15 p.m. **Lunch**
- 1:15 p.m. **Public Comment***
- 1:30 p.m. (3) **[LFC Program Evaluations](#)**
A. Pre-Kindergarten
—Sarah Rovang, Program Evaluator, LFC
—Ryan Tolman, Ph.D., Program Evaluator, LFC
—Elizabeth Groginsky, Secretary, Early Childhood Education and Care
Department (ECECD)
B. School Lunches
—Josh Chaffin, Program Evaluator, LFC
—Ryan Tolman, Ph.D., Program Evaluator. LFC

3:00 p.m. (4) [LifeHouse: An Update on Providing Behavioral Health Services in a Rural Setting](#)
—Philip Huston, Executive Director, Carlsbad LifeHouse, Inc.

4:00 p.m. **Recess**

Thursday, September 11

9:00 a.m. (5) [Welcome to NMSU](#)
—Valerio Ferme, President, NMSU

9:30 a.m. (6) [Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine \(BCOM\) Update](#)
—John L. Hummer, Co-Founder, President and Chief Executive Officer, BCOM

10:30 a.m. (7) [Opioid Settlement Funds: Dona Ana County](#)
—Jamie Michael, Director, Health and Human Services, Dona Ana County

12:00 noon **Lunch**

1:00 p.m. (8) [New Mexico Dental Association](#)
—Tom Schripsema, D.D.S., Executive Director, New Mexico Dental Association

2:00 p.m. (9) [Hospital Finance 101](#)
—Harry Rommel, Ph.D., Fiscal Analyst, LFC

3:30 p.m. **Public Comment***

4:00 p.m. **Recess**

Friday, September 12

9:00 a.m. (10) [Early Childhood Accountability Report](#)
—Allegra Hernandez, Ph.D., Fiscal Analyst, LFC
—Garrett Moseley, Program Evaluator, LFC
—Elizabeth Groginsky, Secretary, ECECD
—Hailey Heinz, Ph.D., Director of Policy, Research and Quality Initiatives, ECECD

10:30 a.m. (11) [Head Start Programs in Southern New Mexico](#)
—Patricia Grovey Evans, President, New Mexico Head Start Association
—Casey Lafferty, Director, Head Start Collaboration Office, ECECD

11:30 a.m. (12) **New Mexico Health Care Expenditures Data Needs**
—Suzan Reagan, Senior Program Manager, Bureau of Business and
Economic Research, University of New Mexico
—Kramer Winingham, D.E.D., Program Director, Arrowhead Center,
NMSU

12:30 p.m. **Public Comment***

12:45 p.m. **Adjourn**

*Members of the public may make virtual public comments during the public comment period of the meeting by following the instructions under the "Additional Information" section of the Legislative Health and Human Services Committee [web page](#).

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

**September 10-12, 2025
Villanueva Victory Club
Stan Fulton Athletic Center
New Mexico State University
1815 Wells Street
Las Cruces**

The fifth meeting of the Legislative Health and Human Services Committee was called to order by Representative Elizabeth "Liz" Thomson, chair, on Wednesday, September 10, 2025, at 9:16 a.m. at the Villanueva Victory Club at the Stan Fulton Athletic Center at New Mexico State University (NMSU) in Las Cruces.

Present

Rep. Elizabeth "Liz" Thomson, Chair (9/10, 9/11)
Sen. Linda M. López, Vice Chair (9/10, 9/11)
Rep. Pamela Herndon
Rep. Jenifer Jones (9/12)

Absent

Sen. Jay C. Block
Rep. Eleanor Chávez
Sen. Larry R. Scott
Sen. Antoinette Sedillo Lopez

Advisory Members

Rep. Marianna Anaya (9/10, 9/11)
Rep. John Block (9/11, 9/12)
Rep. Kathleen Cates (9/11, 9/12)
Rep. Joanne J. Ferrary
Rep. Anita Gonzales (9/12)
Rep. Tara L. Lujan (9/10)
Sen. Shannon D. Pinto (9/10, 9/11)
Sen. Harold Pope
Rep. Patricia Roybal Caballero (9/11, 9/12)
Rep. E. Diane Torres-Velásquez (9/10, 9/11)

Rep. Christine Chandler
Sen. Angel M. Charley
Rep. Nicole Chavez
Sen. Katy Duhigg
Sen. David M. Gallegos
Rep. Miguel P. García
Sen. Martin Hickey
Rep. D. Wonda Johnson
Rep. Alan T. Martinez
Rep. Elaine Sena Cortez
Rep. Sarah Silva
Sen. Elizabeth "Liz" Stefanics
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)
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.

Wednesday, September 10

Welcome and Introductions (9:16 a.m.)

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

NMSU Program Updates (9:19 a.m.)

Rick Marlatt, dean, College of Health, Education and Social Transformation, NMSU, provided an overview of the college's programs, student demographics, research centers and student experiential learning. Alexa Doig, Ph.D., R.N., director, School of Nursing, NMSU, presented about the School of Nursing's Doctor of Nursing Practice - Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner program. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=9/10/2025&ItemNumber=1>.

Food Security (11:06 a.m.)

RubyAnn Esquibel, principal analyst, Legislative Finance Committee (LFC), and Alma Kassim, program evaluator, LFC, reviewed rates of food insecurity and federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) participation, the Public Education Department's (PED's) Healthy Universal School Meals program, state funding to address food insecurity and potential impacts on and changes to SNAP resulting from the 2025 federal budget reconciliation bill. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=9/10/2025&ItemNumber=2>.

Public Comment (12:10 p.m.)

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

LFC Program Evaluations (1:37 p.m.)

Sarah Rovang, Ph.D., program evaluator, LFC, and Ryan Tolman, Ph.D., program evaluator, LFC, explained findings and recommendations from the LFC's June 2025 progress report regarding pre-kindergarten quality and educational outcomes. Elizabeth Groginsky, secretary, Early Childhood Education and Care Department (ECECD), discussed student demographics and funding and goals for expanding access to and improving state-funded pre-kindergarten programs. Dr. Tolman and Josh Chaffin, program evaluator, LFC, reviewed findings and recommendations from the LFC's August 2025 evaluation of the Healthy Universal School Meals program. Gregory Frostad, assistant secretary of education, PED, and Laura Henry-Hand, deputy director, Student Success and Wellness Bureau, PED, highlighted the success of the Healthy Universal School Meals program and the PED's plans for the program's future. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=9/10/2025&ItemNumber=3>.

LifeHouse: An Update on Providing Behavioral Health Services in a Rural Setting (3:21 p.m.)

Philip Huston, executive director, Carlsbad LifeHouse, Inc., gave an update on services provided by Carlsbad LifeHouse, Inc. and discussed the climate of behavioral health and substance abuse services in rural southern New Mexico. He discussed challenges faced by providers of those services and offered legislative recommendations that could reduce barriers to accessing mental health care in rural settings. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=9/10/2025&ItemNumber=4>.

Recess

The meeting recessed at 4:04 p.m.

Thursday, September 11

Reconvene

The meeting reconvened at 9:10 a.m.

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

Valerio Ferme, president, NMSU, welcomed the committee to NMSU, highlighted mental health services available to students and described initiatives to prevent sexual assault. He discussed campus safety and resources for students who struggle with substance abuse and food insecurity.

Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine (BCOM) Update (9:50 a.m.)

John L. Hummer, co-founder, president and chief executive officer, BCOM, spoke about the BCOM's funding sources, student demographics, student debt, residencies matched into by BCOM graduates and common careers of BCOM graduates. He addressed challenges faced by

the school, including the state's medical malpractice climate and difficulty retaining graduates in New Mexico.

Opioid Settlement Funds: Dona Ana County (10:30 a.m.)

Jamie Michael, director, Health and Human Services, Dona Ana County, described the expenditure of opioid settlement funds for behavioral health and substance abuse services in Dona Ana County and stated that the county often collaborates with the City of Las Cruces to provide such services. The county hopes to implement universal screening to identify opioid use disorder in its early stages among residents, increase access to naloxone and improve access to medication for opioid use disorders in rural and Spanish-speaking communities. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=9/10/2025&ItemNumber=7>.

Public Comment (11:26 a.m.)

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

New Mexico Dental Association (12:40 p.m.)

Tom Schripsema, D.D.S., executive director, New Mexico Dental Association, described the landscape of dentistry in New Mexico, including dental workforce trends and the difficulties of recruiting dentists to New Mexico, especially in rural areas. He presented findings and recommendations of the New Mexico Dental Association Foundation's 2025 report on special needs dentistry in the state, provided an update on Touro College of Dental Medicine's clinic in Albuquerque and discussed barriers to dental care in rural areas and among people with special needs. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=9/10/2025&ItemNumber=8>.

Hospital Finance 101 (2:19 p.m.)

Harry Rommel, Ph.D., fiscal analyst, LFC, reviewed revenues and expenditures of hospitals in New Mexico and explained metrics of hospital fiscal health. He provided a time line of changes to Medicaid resulting from the 2025 federal budget reconciliation bill and explained how those changes could impact hospitals. Dr. Rommel shared revenue estimates related to the Health Care Delivery and Access Act hospital budget projections for fiscal year 2025. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=9/10/2025&ItemNumber=9>.

Public Comment (3:16 p.m.)

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

Recess

The meeting recessed at 3:22 p.m.

Friday, September 12**Reconvene**

The meeting reconvened at 9:08 a.m.

Early Childhood Accountability Report (9:10 a.m.)

Allegra Hernandez, Ph.D., fiscal analyst, LFC, and Garrett Moseley, program evaluator, LFC, presented the LFC's biennial early childhood accountability report, which addressed child care assistance, pre-kindergarten outcomes, kindergarten readiness, early childhood spending and child welfare. Ms. Groginsky and Hailey Heinz, Ph.D., director of policy, research and quality initiatives, ECECD, discussed the ECECD's Family, Infant, Toddler and Home Visiting programs, early childhood care workforce wages and department goals. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=9/10/2025&ItemNumber=10>.

Head Start Programs in Southern New Mexico (10:31 a.m.)

Patricia Grovey Evans, president, New Mexico Head Start Association; Casey Lafferty, director, Head Start Collaboration Office, ECECD; and Alejandra Gonzalez, lead coordinator, Dona Ana County Early Childhood Education Coalition, shared the Head Start Collaboration Office's 2025 needs assessment and discussed local Head Start program demographics, resources for families and family support specialists. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=9/10/2025&ItemNumber=11>.

New Mexico Health Care Expenditures Data Needs (11:30 a.m.)

Kramer Winingham, D.E.D., program director, Arrowhead Center, NMSU, and Suzan Reagan, senior program manager, Bureau of Business and Economic Research, University of New Mexico, presented the Bureau of Business and Economic Research and Arrowhead Center's January 2025 report about strategies for implementing and maintaining a state health care expenditure database. They discussed similar databases in other states and the role that the Department of Health's All Payer Claims Database could play in developing an expenditure database for New Mexico. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=9/10/2025&ItemNumber=12>.

Public Comment (12:04 p.m.)

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

Adjournment

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 12:23 p.m.

Revised: October 8, 2025

**TENTATIVE AGENDA
for the
SIXTH MEETING
of the
LEGISLATIVE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**October 6-9, 2025
University of New Mexico
Comprehensive Cancer Center Auditorium
1201 Camino de Salud NE
Albuquerque**

Monday, October 6

- 9:00 a.m. **Call to Order and Introductions**
—Representative Elizabeth "Liz" Thomson, Chair
—Senator Linda M. López, Vice Chair
- 9:15 a.m. (1) **[Welcome to University of New Mexico \(UNM\) Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)**
—Yolanda Sanchez, Ph.D., Professor, Department of Internal Medicine, UNM School of Medicine; Director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), UNM Comprehensive Cancer Center
- 9:45 a.m. (2) **[UNM Health Sciences Center Overview](#)**
—Michael Richards, M.D., M.P.A., Executive Vice President, UNM Health Sciences Center; CEO, UNM Health System
- 11:00 a.m. (3) **[Bernalillo County Opioid Settlement Funding and Behavioral Health Initiatives](#)**
—Cindy Chavez, County Manager, Bernalillo County
—Wayne Lindstrom, Ph.D., Deputy County Manager, Behavioral Health Authority, Bernalillo County
- 12:30 p.m. **Lunch**
- 1:00 p.m. (4) **[Medicaid Accountability Report](#)**
—Allegra Hernandez, Ph.D., Fiscal Analyst, Legislative Finance Committee (LFC)
—Harry Rommel, Ph.D., Fiscal Analyst, LFC
—Myja Peterson, Principal Analyst, LFC

2:30 p.m. (5) [Michigan Model of Medical Malpractice](#)
—Richard C. Boothman, Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of Surgery, University of Michigan Medical School; Visiting Scholar, Center for Patient and Professional Advocacy, Vanderbilt University Medical Center
—Elizabeth Baker, M.D., J.D., C.H.C., M.B., Professor, UNM School of Medicine

4:00 p.m. (6) [Project ECHO \(Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes\)](#)
—TBD

5:15 p.m. **Public Comment***

5:30 p.m. **Recess**

Tuesday, October 7

9:30 a.m. (7) [National Evidence on the Effects of Medical Malpractice Reform](#)
—Bernard Black, Professor, Pritzker School of Law and Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern University

11:00 a.m. (8) [The Harms of Private Equity in Health Care](#)
—Olivia Webb Kosloff, Senior Fellow, American Economic Liberties Project

12:00 noon **Lunch**

1:00 p.m. (9) [Recruiting Health Care Professionals](#)
—Jerry N. Harrison, Ph.D., Executive Director, New Mexico Health Resources, Inc.

2:00 p.m. (10) [Medical Malpractice Payments and Medical Discipline in New Mexico: What Reports to the National Practitioner Data Bank Show](#)
—Robert E. Oshel, Ph.D., Former Associate Director for Research and Disputes, National Practitioner Data Bank

3:00 p.m. (11) [Health Care Workforce Update](#)
—Harry Rommel, Ph.D., Fiscal Analyst, LFC

4:00 p.m. **Public Comment***

4:15 p.m. **Recess**

Wednesday, October 8

- 9:00 a.m. (12) **Substance Use Prevention and Treatment Initiative**
—Nawshin Ahmed, Senior Associate, Substance Use Prevention and Treatment Initiative, Pew Charitable Trusts
- 10:00 a.m. (13) **Job Architecture Update**
—Dylan Lange, Director, State Personnel Office
- 11:00 a.m. (14) **Services for Victims of Sexual Assault**
—Alexandria Taylor, M.P.A., L.M.S.W., Executive Director, New Mexico Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs, Inc.
- 12:00 noon **Lunch**
- 1:00 p.m. (15) **Protocall Services**
—Rosella Sanchez, Director, Community and Stakeholder Relations, Protocall Services, Inc.
—Claire Carmony, 988 Manager, Protocall Services Inc.
—Paul Galloway, Outreach Coordinator, Protocall Services Inc.
- 2:00 p.m. (16) **City of Albuquerque School-Based Violence Intervention Program**
—Jodie Esquibel, Director, Albuquerque Community Safety Department, City of Albuquerque
—Jasmine Desiderio, Deputy Director, Albuquerque Community Safety Department, City of Albuquerque
—Jeffery Bustamante, Community Outreach Manager, Albuquerque Community Safety Department, City of Albuquerque
—Katarina Sandoval, Child Wellbeing Impact Officer, Mayor's Office, City of Albuquerque
—Arya Lamb, Deputy Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office, City of Albuquerque
—Michele Torres, Principal, West Mesa High School, Albuquerque Public School District (APS)
—Samantha Sengel, Chief Administrative Officer, City of Albuquerque
- 3:30 p.m. (17) **New Mexico Alliance of Health Councils (NMAHC)**
—Valeria Alarcón, Executive Director, NMAHC
—Gerilyn Antonio, Tribal Liaison, NMAHC
- 5:00 p.m. **Public Comment***
- 5:15 p.m. **Recess**

Thursday, October 9

- 8:30 a.m. (18) **Juvenile Justice: Community Services**
—Gerri Bachicha, Chief Programs Officer, New Day Youth and Family Services
—Lorilynn Violanta, Co-Executive Director, New Mexico Child Advocacy Networks
—Reed Ridens, Advocate, New Mexico Child Advocacy Networks
- 9:15 a.m. (19) **Juvenile Drug Treatment Court and Community Gun Violence Programs**
—The Honorable Marie Ward, Chief Judge, Second Judicial District Court
- 9:45 a.m. (20) **Children's Code Reform Task Force Findings**
—The Honorable John Romero, Jr., Retired Children's Court Judge, Second Judicial District Court
- 10:15 a.m. (21) **APS Restorative Justice Program**
—Kenneth Salazar, Associate Superintendent, APS
—Joshua Laclair, Principal, Garfield STEM Magnet and Community Middle School
—Erin Chavez, Teacher and Restorative Practices Coordinator, Garfield STEM Magnet and Community Middle School
—Jessica Martinez, Policy Analyst and Government Affairs Liaison, APS
- 10:45 a.m. (22) **La Plazita Institute**
—Rodrigo Rodriguez, Director, Justice for Youth Community Collaborative, La Plazita Institute
- 11:15 a.m. (23) **Bernalillo County Youth Services Center — A History and Purpose in a Response to Juvenile Crime**
—Tamera Marcantel, Director, Bernalillo County Youth Services Center
—Greg Perez, Deputy County Manager, Public Safety Division, Bernalillo County
- 11:45 a.m. (24) **Community-Based Organizations Serving New Mexico**
—Dawn Hommer, CEO, Community Action Agency of Southern New Mexico
—Michelle Katz, Executive Director, Communities in Schools of New Mexico (CISNM)
—Aseneth Ultreras, Alum and Member, Board of Directors, CISNM
—Naomi Chavez Lopez, Executive Director, SWIFT Community Schools
—Deanna Creighton, Managing Director, ABC Community School Partnership
—Colby Wilson, Chief Encouragement Officer, Boys and Girls Clubs of Central New Mexico
—Michael Conners, Club Youth and Winner, Regional Youth of the Year, Boys and Girls Clubs of Central New Mexico

1:00 p.m. **Public Comment***

1:15 p.m. **Adjourn**

*Members of the public may make virtual public comments during the public comment period of the meeting by following the instructions under the "Additional Information" section of the Legislative Health and Human Services Committee [web page](#).

MINUTES
of the
SIXTH MEETING
of the
LEGISLATIVE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

October 6-9, 2025
University of New Mexico
Comprehensive Cancer Center Auditorium
1201 Camino de Salud NE
Albuquerque

The sixth meeting of the Legislative Health and Human Services Committee was called to order by Representative Elizabeth "Liz" Thomson, chair, on Monday, October 6, 2025, at 9:06 a.m. at the University of New Mexico (UNM) Comprehensive Cancer Center Auditorium in Albuquerque.

Present

Rep. Elizabeth "Liz" Thomson, Chair
Sen. Linda M. López, Vice Chair
Sen. Jay C. Block (10/7)
Rep. Eleanor Chávez
Rep. Pamela Herndon
Rep. Jenifer Jones (10/7, 10/8, 10/9)
Sen. Antoinette Sedillo Lopez

Absent

Sen. Larry R. Scott

Advisory Members

Rep. Marianna Anaya
Rep. John Block
Rep. Kathleen Cates
Sen. Angel M. Charley (10/8)
Sen. Katy Duhigg (10/7)
Rep. Joanne J. Ferrary
Sen. David M. Gallegos (10/7, 10/8)
Rep. Miguel P. García (10/6, 10/8, 10/9)
Rep. Anita Gonzales (10/8)
Sen. Martin Hickey (10/6, 10/7)
Rep. Tara L. Lujan (10/6, 10/7)
Sen. Shannon D. Pinto (10/7, 10/8, 10/9)
Sen. Harold Pope
Rep. Patricia Roybal Caballero
Rep. E. Diane Torres-Velásquez (10/6, 10/8, 10/9)

Rep. Christine Chandler
Rep. Nicole Chavez
Rep. D. Wonda Johnson
Rep. Alan T. Martinez
Rep. Elaine Sena Cortez
Rep. Sarah Silva
Sen. Elizabeth "Liz" Stefanics
Rep. Reena Szczepanski

Guest Legislator

Sen. Nicole Tobiassen (10/7)

(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, October 6**Welcome and Introductions (9:06 a.m.)**

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

Welcome to UNM Comprehensive Cancer Center (9:10 a.m.)

Yolanda Sanchez, Ph.D., professor, Department of Internal Medicine, UNM School of Medicine, and director and chief executive officer (CEO), UNM Comprehensive Cancer Center, provided information about the UNM Comprehensive Cancer Center's patient care, research, new technology and plans for the near future. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=10/6/2025&ItemNumber=1>.

UNM Health Sciences Center (HSC) Overview (9:47 a.m.)

Michael Richards, M.D., M.P.A., executive vice president, UNM HSC, and CEO, UNM Health System, provided an update on the UNM HSC clinics, facilities, career pathway programs and graduate medical education programs. Hengameh Raissy, Pharm.D., vice president for research, UNM HSC, described research conducted by the UNM HSC and potential impacts of the 2025 federal budget reconciliation bill on future research. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=10/6/2025&ItemNumber=2>.

Approval of Minutes (11:16 a.m.)

Upon a motion made, and without any objections, the committee approved the minutes of the June 25-27, 2025, July 21-23, 2025, August 18-20, 2025 and September 10-12, 2025 meetings.

Bernalillo County Opioid Settlement Funding and Behavioral Health Initiatives (11:18 a.m.)

Cindy Chavez, county manager, Bernalillo County, and Wayne Lindstrom, Ph.D., deputy county manager, Behavioral Health Authority, Bernalillo County, reviewed Bernalillo County's behavioral health strategic plan and opioid recurring funding plan. They highlighted collaborations with the City of Albuquerque for opioid use prevention and treatment and described the county Behavioral Health Authority's data and accountability dashboard, which will go live later this year. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=10/6/2025&ItemNumber=3>.

Medicaid Accountability Report (1:02 p.m.)

Allegra Hernandez, Ph.D., fiscal analyst, Legislative Finance Committee (LFC); Harry Rommel, Ph.D., fiscal analyst, LFC; and Myja Peterson, principal analyst, LFC, presented the LFC's biennial Medicaid accountability report, which addressed Medicaid enrollment, access, expenditures, administrative oversight and network adequacy. Dana Flannery, director, Medical Assistance Division, Health Care Authority, discussed expenditures related to managed care organizations and Medicaid utilization, costs and spending. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=10/6/2025&ItemNumber=4>.

Michigan Model of Medical Malpractice (2:22 p.m.)

Richard C. Boothman, J.D., adjunct assistant professor, Department of Surgery, University of Michigan Medical School, and visiting scholar, Center for Patient and Professional Advocacy, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, gave a presentation about legal procedures in Michigan regarding medical malpractice. Elizabeth Baker, M.D., J.D., C.H.C., M.B., professor, UNM School of Medicine, compared various medical malpractice models. They discussed the intersection of legal, medical and cultural philosophies of malpractice resolution. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=10/6/2025&ItemNumber=5>.

Project ECHO (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes) (4:31 p.m.)

Karla Thornton, M.D., M.P.H., interim executive director, Project ECHO, and professor of medicine, UNM HSC, provided information about Project ECHO, including patient access and demographics, recent publications and collaborations with state agencies. She explained how Project ECHO telehealth sessions work and outlined Project ECHO's behavioral health

initiatives, addiction treatment and civics and justice programs. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=10/6/2025&ItemNumber=6>.

Public Comment (5:12 p.m.)

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

Recess

The meeting recessed at 5:16 p.m.

Tuesday, October 7

Reconvene

The meeting reconvened at 9:36 a.m.

National Evidence on the Effects of Medical Malpractice Reform (9:39 a.m.)

Bernard Black, professor, Pritzker School of Law and Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern University, compared New Mexico tort reform data to those of other states regarding medical malpractice premiums, paid claims, payouts and damage caps. He offered suggestions for how the laws governing the Patient's Compensation Fund could be amended. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=10/6/2025&ItemNumber=7>.

The Harms of Private Equity in Health Care (11:10 a.m.)

Olivia Webb Kosloff, senior fellow, American Economic Liberties Project, spoke about the impacts of private equity ownership of hospitals, nursing homes and physician practices on the quality of health care services and outcomes. She addressed reliable staffing issues, access to care, patient safety, costs and clinic closures. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=10/6/2025&ItemNumber=8>.

Recruiting Health Care Professionals (1:01 p.m.)

Jerry N. Harrison, Ph.D., executive director, New Mexico Health Resources, Inc., reviewed the number of vacancies in health care job positions in the state; shared responses from young health professionals who do not want to practice in New Mexico, explaining why they would prefer to work elsewhere; and noted New Mexico Health Resources, Inc.'s outreach activities and initiatives. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=10/6/2025&ItemNumber=9>.

Medical Malpractice Payments and Medical Discipline in New Mexico: What Reports to the National Practitioner Data Bank Show (2:11 p.m.)

Robert E. Oshel, Ph.D., former associate director for research and disputes, National Practitioner Data Bank, offered suggestions for how medical malpractice could be reduced in New Mexico. He explained licensure actions taken by medical boards and noted malpractice payments in other states. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=10/6/2025&ItemNumber=10>.

Health Care Workforce Update (3:08 p.m.)

Dr. Rommel gave a presentation on the types of federal and state loan repayment programs administered by the National Health Service Corps and the Higher Education Department. He discussed federal funding opportunities through the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' Rural Health Transformation Program. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=10/6/2025&ItemNumber=11>.

Public Comment (3:54 p.m.)

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

Motion to Draft Letter (4:09 p.m.)

On a motion made by Representative Chávez and seconded by Representative Ferrary, and without objection, the committee voted to draft a letter to the Public School Insurance Authority to inquire about an insurance program that purportedly provides financial incentives to patients who choose to receive orthopedic surgery out of state.

Recess

The meeting recessed at 4:13 p.m.

Wednesday, October 7

Reconvene

The meeting reconvened at 9:07 a.m.

Substance Use Prevention and Treatment Initiative (9:07 a.m.)

Nawshin Ahmed, senior associate, Substance Use Prevention and Treatment Initiative, Pew Charitable Trusts, shared strategies for expanding access to methadone throughout the state,

noted gaps in residential treatment for substance abuse in New Mexico and described the collaborative care model for treating substance use disorders, which integrates behavioral health into primary care settings. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=10/6/2025&ItemNumber=12>.

Job Architecture Update (10:00 a.m.)

Dylan Lange, director, State Personnel Office (SPO), and Cynthia Sandoval, deputy director, SPO, discussed the recent overhaul of the state's job architecture framework. They explained the state's new single uniform salary structure and job architecture challenges related to job categorization, pay grade alignment, job titling and career tracks. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=10/6/2025&ItemNumber=13>.

Services for Victims of Sexual Assault (11:00 a.m.)

Alexandria Taylor, M.P.A., L.M.S.W., executive director, New Mexico Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs, Inc.; Jess Clark, director of prevention, New Mexico Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs, Inc.; and Oshay Jaramillo, executive director, Roberta's Place, Inc., discussed sexual violence services and prevention. They highlighted the impacts of children's advocacy centers and the New Mexico Sexual Assault Helpline. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=10/6/2025&ItemNumber=14>.

Protocall Services (1:04 p.m.)

Rosella Sanchez, director, Community and Stakeholder Relations, Protocall Services, Inc.; Claire Carmony, 988 manager, Protocall Services Inc.; and Paul Galloway, outreach coordinator, Protocall Services Inc., provided an update on the growth and offerings of the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline. They highlighted the resources and referrals frequently shared with callers and positive outcomes resulting from calls. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=10/6/2025&ItemNumber=15>.

City of Albuquerque School-Based Violence Intervention Program (2:03 p.m.)

Samantha Sengel, chief administrative officer, City of Albuquerque; Jodie Esquibel, director, Albuquerque Community Safety Department, City of Albuquerque; Jasmine Desiderio, deputy director, Violence Intervention Program, Albuquerque Community Safety Department, City of Albuquerque; and Jeffery Bustamante, community outreach manager, Albuquerque Community Safety Department, City of Albuquerque, discussed the Albuquerque Community Safety Department's School-Based Violence Intervention Program, which is a violence reduction

initiative that is active in four schools in the Albuquerque Public School District (APS). Michele Torres, principal, West Mesa High School, APS, shared her experience with the program's implementation at West Mesa High School. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=10/6/2025&ItemNumber=16>.

New Mexico Alliance of Health Councils (NMAHC) (3:12 p.m.)

Valeria Alarcón, executive director, NMAHC, and Gerilyn Antonio, tribal liaison, NMAHC, provided an update on the NMAHC's services, programs, advocacy and collaborations with public health agencies. They described how county and tribal health councils have evolved since the passage of the County and Tribal Health Councils Act in 2019 and discussed funding for health councils. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=10/6/2025&ItemNumber=17>.

Public Comment (4:42 p.m.)

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

Motion to Draft Letter (5:04 p.m.)

On a motion made by Representative Chávez and seconded by Senator Sedillo Lopez, and without objection, the committee voted to draft a letter to the State Personnel Office about issues related to the office's recent overhaul of the state job architecture structure.

Recess

The meeting recessed at 5:05 p.m.

Thursday, October 9

Reconvene

The meeting reconvened at 8:33 a.m.

Juvenile Justice: Community Services (8:34 a.m.)

Lorilynn Violanta, co-executive director, New Mexico Child Advocacy Networks, discussed alternatives to incarceration of youth. Reed Ridens, advocate, New Mexico Child Advocacy Networks, shared his lived experience in the juvenile justice system in New Mexico and described his experience as a youth leader at New Mexico Child Advocacy Networks. Gerri Bachicha, chief programs officer, New Day Youth and Family Services, provided information about New Day Youth and Family Services' reception assessment centers. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=10/6/2025&ItemNumber=18>.

Juvenile Drug Treatment Court and Community Gun Violence Programs (9:25 a.m.)

The Honorable Alma Roberson, presiding Children's Court judge, Second Judicial District Court; Tanya Tijerina, clinical operations manager, Second Judicial District Court; and Lindsey Jones, program manager, Children's Court Division, Second Judicial District Court, provided an overview of the Second Judicial District Court's community gun violence intervention program and the Juvenile Drug Treatment Court's gun violence intervention track, which aim to address the root causes of juvenile firearm offenses. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=10/6/2025&ItemNumber=19>.

Children's Code Reform Task Force Findings (10:00 a.m.)

The Honorable John Romero, Jr., retired Children's Court judge, Second Judicial District Court, reviewed a report prepared by the Children's Code Reform Task Force about why incarcerating youth often fails, the racial and ethnic disparities in the juvenile justice system, adverse childhood experiences, a proposed Crossover Youth Act and the Annie E. Casey Foundation's juvenile detention alternatives initiative. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=10/6/2025&ItemNumber=20>.

APS Restorative Justice Program (10:42 a.m.)

Erin Chavez, teacher and restorative practices coordinator, Garfield STEM Magnet and Community Middle School; Joshua Laclair, principal, Garfield STEM Magnet and Community Middle School; and Kenneth Salazar, associate superintendent, APS, compared punitive and restorative discipline in schools and discussed restorative practices at Garfield STEM Magnet and Community Middle School that have resulted in fewer student suspensions. They noted that APS plans to implement restorative practices districtwide. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=10/6/2025&ItemNumber=21>.

La Plazita Institute (11:10 a.m.)

Rodrigo Rodriguez, director, Justice for Youth Community Collaborative, La Plazita Institute, and Albino Garcia, Jr., founder and executive director, La Plazita Institute, provided information about La Plazita Institute's Justice for Youth Community Collaborative's advocacy for youth justice policy reform. Tracey Chavez, member, Stronger Together, Never Alone, and Brandi Sedillo, founding member, Stronger Together, Never Alone, spoke about Stronger Together, Never Alone, which is a support group for parents of incarcerated youth. Christopher Herrera, founder, Better Big Homies, spoke about the mentorship Better Big Homies provides to justice-involved youth. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=10/6/2025&ItemNumber=22>.

Bernalillo County Youth Services Center — A History and Purpose in a Response to Juvenile Crime (11:43 a.m.)

Tamera Marcantel, director, Bernalillo County Youth Services Center, and Carmela Romero, deputy director of administration, Bernalillo County Youth Services Center, discussed challenges faced by the Bernalillo County Youth Services Center, such as increased lengths of stays of detainees, staffing and funding difficulties and an increase in the average daily detainee population. They noted that the center will create a compliance unit and compared the population of the center to those of other youth detention facilities. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=10/6/2025&ItemNumber=23>.

Community-Based Organizations Serving New Mexico (12:55 p.m.)

Dawn Hommer, CEO, Community Action Agency of Southern New Mexico; Michelle Katz, executive director, Communities in Schools of New Mexico (CISNM); Aseneth Ultreras, alumna and member, Board of Directors, CISNM; Naomi Chavez Lopez, executive director, SWIFT Community Schools; Deanna Creighton, managing director, ABC Community School Partnership; Colby Wilson, chief encouragement officer, Boys and Girls Clubs of Central New Mexico; and Michael Conners, club youth and winner, Regional Youth of the Year, Boys and Girls Clubs of Central New Mexico, shared their personal experiences with community-based organizations and highlighted the positive impacts of community engagement. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=10/6/2025&ItemNumber=24>.

Public Comment (1:49 p.m.)

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

Adjournment

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:08 p.m.

Revised: November 6, 2025

**TENTATIVE AGENDA
for the
SEVENTH MEETING
of the
LEGISLATIVE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**November 5-7, 2025
State Capitol, Room 307
Santa Fe**

Wednesday, November 5

- 8:45 a.m. **Call to Order and Introductions**
—Representative Elizabeth "Liz" Thomson, Chair
—Senator Linda M. López, Vice Chair
- 9:00 a.m. (1) **Medication-Assisted Treatment For Justice-Involved Individuals**
—Allegra Hernandez, Ph.D., Senior Fiscal Analyst, Legislative Finance
Committee (LFC)
- 10:00 a.m. (2) **Pharmaceutical Update**
—RubyAnn Esquibel, Principal Analyst, LFC
—Harry Rommel, Ph.D., Fiscal Analyst, LFC
- 11:00 a.m. (3) **Senate Bill 3 (2025) Update**
—Kristie Brooks, M.S., L.P.C., Director of Behavioral Health
Transformation and Innovation, Health Care Authority
—Esperanza Lucero, Behavioral Health Integration and Reform
Administrator, Administrative Office of the Courts
- 12:30 p.m. **Lunch**
- 1:00 p.m. (4) **New Mexico Medical Board Update**
—Karen Carson, M.D., F.A.A.P., Chair, New Mexico Medical Board
—Monique Parks, Interim Executive Director and Director of Operations,
New Mexico Medical Board
- 2:30 p.m. (5) **SYNCRONYS**
—Terri Stewart, President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO),
SYNCRONYS
—Phillip Gibbs, Director of Customer Engagement, SYNCRONYS

4:00 p.m. (6) [Disabilities Concerns Subcommittee: Accessibility for State Employees](#)
—Sunny Gonzales, Chair, Disability Justice Committee, Communications
Workers of America (CWA) Local 7076
—Megan Green, President, CWA Local 7076
—Linsey Hurst, Executive Vice President, CWA Local 7076
—Dylan Lange, Director, State Personnel Office

5:30 p.m. **Public Comment***

5:45 p.m. **Recess**

Thursday, November 6

9:00 a.m. (7) [Meeting Basic Needs in Every County: The Changing Role of New Mexico's Food Banks](#)
—Jill Dixon, Executive Director, The Food Depot
—Katy Anderson, Vice President of Strategy, Partnerships and Advocacy,
Roadrunner Food Bank

10:00 a.m. (8) [Dental Hygienists: Bridging the Oral Health Gap Through Innovation](#)
—Barbara Posler, R.D.H., Chair, Council on Regulation and Practice, New
Mexico Dental Hygienists' Association
—Christie Baca Garcia, R.D.H., B.S.D.H., Former President, New Mexico
Dental Hygienists' Association

11:00 a.m. (9) [Animal Protection New Mexico](#)
—Stacy Sutton Kerby, Chief Government Affairs Officer, Animal
Protection New Mexico
—Judy Wolf, Chief Program and Policy Officer for Humane Communities,
Animal Protection New Mexico

12:00 noon (10) [Council of State Governments \(CSG\) Youth and Public Safety Initiative](#)
—Christina Gilbert, Project Manager, Corrections and Reentry, CSG Justice
Center
—Nina Salomon, Deputy Division Director, Corrections and Reentry, CSG
Justice Center

1:00 p.m. **Lunch**

1:30 p.m. (11) [Juvenile Justice Evaluation Report Status Update](#)
—Rachel Garcia, Ed.D., Deputy Director of Program Evaluation, LFC
—Clayton Lobaugh, M.P.A., Program Evaluator II, LFC

2:30 p.m. (12) [Office of Superintendent of Insurance \(OSI\)](#)
—Alice T. Kane, Superintendent of Insurance, OSI

3:30 p.m. (13) [Supporting Caregivers and Direct Support Workers](#)
—Meggin Lorino, M.S.W., Executive Director, New Mexico Association
for Home and Hospice Care
—Adrienne R. Smith, President and CEO, New Mexico Caregivers
Coalition

4:30 p.m. (14) [Association of Developmental Disabilities Community Providers
\(ADDCP\)](#)
—Jim Copeland, Executive Director, ADDCP

5:00 p.m. **Public Comment***

5:15 p.m. **Recess**

Friday, November 7

9:00 a.m. (15) [PIVOT Evaluation](#)
—Sarah Dinces, Ph.D., Program Evaluator III, LFC
—Sarah Rovang, Ph.D., Program Evaluator, LFC
—Simon Miller, Strategic Planning and Performance Analyst, Department
of Finance and Administration

10:00 a.m. (16) [Budget Request Previews](#)
—Emily Hilla, Fiscal Analyst, LFC
—Eric Chenier, M.P.A., Principal Analyst, LFC
—Carlie Malone, J.D., Ph.D., Fiscal Analyst II, LFC

11:00 a.m. (17) [Status of Nonrecurring Appropriations](#)
—Maggie Klug, Program Evaluator, LFC
—Josh Chaffin, M.A.I.A., Program Evaluator, LFC

12:00 noon **Lunch**

1:00 p.m. (18) [Preparing for Extreme Heat: Update and Opportunities](#)
—Nathaniel Matthews-Trigg, M.P.H., C.E.M., Member, Board of Directors,
Healthy Climate New Mexico
—Shelley Mann-Lev, M.P.H., Executive Director, Healthy Climate New
Mexico
—Charles Goodmacher, M.A., Policy Advisor, Healthy Climate New
Mexico

2:00 p.m. (19) [Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia Task Force](#)
—Angelina Flores-Montoya, Ph.D., R.N., Deputy Secretary, Aging and
Long-Term Services Department
—Donald Smithburg, M.P.A., Executive Director, Alzheimer's Association,
New Mexico Chapter

- 3:00 p.m. (20) **Solutions to Address Hospital and Independent Medical Practice Administrative Costs**
—Miriam Laugesen, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Health Policy and Management, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University
—Julius L. Chen, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Health Policy and Management, Columbia University
- 4:00 p.m. (21) **Transitioning the Medicaid Fee Model**
—Michael K. Gusmano, Ph.D., Professor, Department of Population Health, College of Health, Lehigh University
- 5:00 p.m. **Public Comment***
- 5:15 p.m. **Adjourn**

*Members of the public may make virtual public comments during the public comment period of the meeting by following the instructions under the "Additional Information" section of the Legislative Health and Human Services Committee [web page](#).

MINUTES
of the
SEVENTH MEETING
of the
LEGISLATIVE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

November 5-7, 2025
State Capitol, Room 307
Santa Fe

The seventh meeting of the Legislative Health and Human Services Committee was called to order by Representative Elizabeth "Liz" Thomson, chair, on Wednesday, November 5, 2025, at 9:08 a.m. in Room 307 of the State Capitol in Santa Fe.

Present

Rep. Elizabeth "Liz" Thomson, Chair
Sen. Linda M. López, Vice Chair
Sen. Jay C. Block (11/6, 11/7)
Rep. Eleanor Chávez
Rep. Pamelya Herndon
Rep. Jenifer Jones
Sen. Antoinette Sedillo Lopez (11/5, 11/6)

Absent

Sen. Larry R. Scott

Advisory Members

Rep. Marianna Anaya (11/5, 11/7)
Rep. Kathleen Cates
Rep. Joanne J. Ferrary
Rep. Miguel P. García
Rep. Anita Gonzales
Sen. Harold Pope
Sen. Elizabeth "Liz" Stefanics

Rep. John Block
Rep. Christine Chandler
Sen. Angel M. Charley
Rep. Nicole Chavez
Sen. Katy Duhigg
Sen. David M. Gallegos
Sen. Martin Hickey
Rep. D. Wonda Johnson
Rep. Tara L. Lujan
Rep. Alan T. Martinez
Sen. Shannon D. Pinto
Rep. Patricia Roybal Caballero
Rep. Elaine Sena Cortez
Rep. Sarah Silva
Rep. Reena Szczepanski
Rep. E. Diane Torres-Velásquez

(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

Minutes Approval

Because the committee will not meet again this year, the minutes for this meeting have not been officially approved by the committee.

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.

Wednesday, November 5

Welcome and Introductions (9:08 a.m.)

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

Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) For Justice-Involved Individuals (9:12 a.m.)

Allegra Hernandez, Ph.D., senior fiscal analyst, Legislative Finance Committee (LFC), reviewed a brief about MAT provided by the state for incarcerated people. The brief's findings included that the rollout of MAT for incarcerated people has been slower than anticipated, most funding from legislative appropriations for providing MAT to justice system-involved individuals has not been spent and most incarcerated individuals who need MAT have not received treatment. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=11/5/2025&ItemNumber=1>.

Pharmaceutical Update (10:10 a.m.)

RubyAnn Esquibel, principal analyst, LFC, and Harry Rommel, Ph.D., fiscal analyst, LFC, provided an overview of rising pharmaceutical costs in New Mexico and the subsequent increase in Medicaid costs, noting the role of glucagon-like peptide-1 agonist pricing in driving costs. Ms. Esquibel noted that the state Medicaid program is implementing a statewide preferred drug list for fee-for-service programs that will be similar to other states' preferred drug lists. Dr. Rommel shared strategies for lowering drug costs that have been implemented by other states. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=11/5/2025&ItemNumber=2>.

Senate Bill 3 (2025) Update (11:13 a.m.)

Kristie Brooks, M.S., L.P.C., director of behavioral health transformation and innovation, Health Care Authority (HCA), and Esperanza Lucero, M.S.W., M.B.A., behavioral health integration and reform administrator, Administrative Office of the Courts, discussed the implementation of the Behavioral Health Reform and Investment Act. Ms. Brooks described the work of the Behavioral Health Executive Committee and outlined the committee's rubric for evaluating regional plan proposals. Ms. Lucero discussed the creation of behavioral health regions. They presented the New Mexico Enhanced Sequential Intercept Model. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=11/5/2025&ItemNumber=3>.

New Mexico Medical Board (NMMB) Update (1:01 p.m.)

Karen Carson, M.D., F.A.A.P., chair, NMMB, and Angela Medrano, public member, NMMB, explained pathways to medical licensure in New Mexico and potential implications of New Mexico joining the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact. They discussed the NMMB's new data analytics program and staffing issues at the NMMB. Dr. Carson and Ms. Medrano outlined the NMMB's disciplinary guidelines and investigation process and explained the NMMB's role in reviewing whether physician actions resulting in medical malpractice cases violate the Medical Practice Act. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=11/5/2025&ItemNumber=4>.

SYNCRONYS (2:38 p.m.)

Terri Stewart, president and chief executive officer (CEO), SYNCRONYS, and Phillip Gibbs, director of customer engagement, SYNCRONYS, presented on the work of SYNCRONYS, a nonprofit organization that serves as the state's designated health information exchange. Ms. Stewart discussed the maintenance of security and privacy of patient records and summarized the analytics and dashboards used by SYNCRONYS. Mr. Gibbs provided a demonstration of the SYNCRONYS portal. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=11/5/2025&ItemNumber=5>.

Disabilities Concerns Subcommittee: Accessibility for State Employees (4:04 p.m.)

Megan Green, president, Communications Workers of America (CWA) Local 7076; Sunny Gonzales, chair, Disability Justice Committee, CWA Local 7076; and Linsey Hurst, executive vice president, CWA Local 7076, expressed concerns with instances of inequitable treatment of state employees with disabilities while at work, such as some state buildings not being accessible and some employees' requests for accessibility accommodations being denied. Sara Araujo, M.P.H., public health advocate, and Sarah Jo Bowman, health equity advocate, shared their personal experiences navigating difficulties attaining accessibility accommodations at work while employed by the state. Dylan Lange, director, State Personnel Office, and Heather

Vigil Clark, human resources manager and federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) coordinator, State Personnel Office, reviewed the requirements for state agencies to employ ADA coordinators. Ellen Pinnes, J.D., The Disability Coalition, reviewed the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's ADA compliance requirements for employers. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=11/5/2025&ItemNumber=6>.

Public Comment (5:12 p.m.)

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

Recess

The meeting recessed at 5:18 p.m.

Thursday, November 6

Reconvene

The meeting reconvened at 9:08 a.m.

Meeting Basic Needs in Every County: The Changing Role of New Mexico's Food Banks (9:08 a.m.)

Jill Dixon, executive director, The Food Depot, and Katy Anderson, vice president of strategy, partnerships and advocacy, Roadrunner Food Bank, discussed food banks' expanding role in helping to mitigate the rise of food insecurity stemming from the nationwide increase in the cost of living. They reviewed the changes to work requirements to qualify for federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits from the 2025 federal budget reconciliation bill and how those changes could impact New Mexico residents. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=11/5/2025&ItemNumber=7>.

Dental Hygienists: Bridging the Oral Health Gap Through Innovation (10:17 a.m.)

Barbara Posler, R.D.H., chair, Council on Regulation and Practice, New Mexico Dental Hygienists' Association, and Christie Baca Garcia, R.D.H., B.S.D.H., former president, New Mexico Dental Hygienists' Association, explained dental hygiene licensure pathways in New Mexico. They provided information about the American Dental Hygienists' Association's dental hygiene practitioner model, which expands the scope of practice for dental hygienists, and presented a framework for how the model could be implemented in New Mexico. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=11/5/2025&ItemNumber=8>.

Juvenile Justice Evaluation Report Status Update (11:04 a.m.)

Clayton Lobaugh, M.P.A., program evaluator II, LFC, and Rachel Garcia, Ed.D., deputy director of program evaluation, LFC, provided information about the LFC's November 2025 juvenile justice report, which addressed trends in juvenile crime, court cases involving juvenile crime, outcomes of referrals to the Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD) and court systems, the CYFD's spending and risk assessment instrument tool, juvenile crime offense types and the effectiveness of interventions at reducing crime. They compared the state's trends to those nationwide. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=11/5/2025&ItemNumber=11>.

Motion to Draft Letter (12:12 p.m.)

On a motion made by Senator Sedillo Lopez and seconded by Representative Chávez, the committee voted to write a letter to the LFC and the CYFD to request that the LFC and the CYFD develop reporting metrics to better identify inequities within the juvenile justice system.

Animal Protection New Mexico (APNM) (12:14 p.m.)

Stacy Sutton Kerby, chief government affairs officer, APNM, and Judy Wolf, chief program and policy officer for humane communities, APNM, discussed the role of animal abuse in domestic violence and noted that the lack of pet-inclusive domestic violence shelters can prevent survivors of domestic violence from leaving abusers. They provided information about the APNM's companion animal rescue effort services, which include a confidential helpline and a co-sheltering initiative. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=11/5/2025&ItemNumber=9>.

Council of State Governments (CSG) Youth and Public Safety Initiative (1:32 p.m.)

Nina Salomon, deputy division director, Corrections and Reentry, CSG Justice Center, and Christina Gilbert, project manager, Corrections and Reentry, CSG Justice Center, discussed an assessment conducted by the CSG Justice Center regarding methods of early intervention and community-based services in New Mexico's juvenile justice system. The assessment included recommendations for improving outcomes for justice-involved youth and increasing public safety, such as expanding diversion services and creating a state office focused on gun violence prevention and intervention. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=11/5/2025&ItemNumber=10>.

Office of Superintendent of Insurance (OSI) (2:45 p.m.)

Viara Ianakieva, director, Life and Health Division, OSI, discussed rate reviews for 2026 individual qualified health plans and mental health parity in health insurance coverage. Alejandro Amparan, director of pharmacy benefits and drug compliance, Life and Health Division, OSI, discussed the implementation of the Prescription Drug Price Transparency Act.

Alice T. Kane, superintendent of insurance, OSI, provided background on medical malpractice insurance and the Patient's Compensation Fund. Christian Myers, chief actuary, OSI, compared New Mexico's medical malpractice rate increases and premiums to those of other states. Superintendent Kane reviewed the model of Wisconsin's Injured Patients and Families Compensation Fund. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=11/5/2025&ItemNumber=12>.

Supporting Caregivers and Direct Support Workers (4:06 p.m.)

Meggin Lorino, M.S.W., executive director, New Mexico Association for Home and Hospice Care; Adrienne R. Smith, president and CEO, New Mexico Caregivers Coalition; and Reena Aurora, director of care policy, National Domestic Workers Alliance, discussed the national and state landscapes of home health care. They described the shortage of direct care workers and direct support professionals and highlighted low, uncompetitive wages as a challenge in recruiting and retaining caregivers. They noted the impacts of the 2025 federal budget reconciliation bill on caregivers and patients requiring the services of caregivers. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=11/5/2025&ItemNumber=13>.

Association of Developmental Disabilities Community Providers (ADDCP) (5:03 p.m.)

Jim Copeland, executive director, ADDCP, reviewed findings of the most recent annual workforce report required by House Bill 395 (2023) regarding the compensation of direct support professionals. He described demographics of recipients of the Mi Via Self-Directed Waiver, the Developmental Disabilities Waiver and the Medically Fragile Waiver. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=11/5/2025&ItemNumber=14>.

Public Comment (5:07 p.m.)

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

Recess

The meeting recessed at 5:17 p.m.

Friday, November 7

Reconvene

The meeting reconvened at 9:10 a.m.

PIVOT Evaluation (9:10 a.m.)

Simon Miller, strategic planning and performance analyst, Department of Finance and Administration; Sarah Dinces, Ph.D., program evaluator III, LFC; and Sarah Rovang, Ph.D., program evaluator, LFC, shared results of the 2025 PIVOT Evaluation, which is an evaluation conducted pursuant to the Accountability in Government Act regarding state agencies' expenditures on certain programs. They reviewed health-and-human-services-related program spending by the Corrections Department, the Early Childhood Education and Care Department, the Behavioral Health Services Division of the HCA, the CYFD, the Department of Health (DOH) and the Public Education Department. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=11/5/2025&ItemNumber=15>.

Budget Request Previews (10:12 a.m.)

Emily Hilla, fiscal analyst, LFC; Eric Chenier, M.P.A., principal analyst, LFC; Carlie Malone, J.D., Ph.D., fiscal analyst II, LFC; and Jon Courtney, Ph.D., deputy director, LFC, provided overviews of budget requests, including requests for nonrecurring funding and for funding from the General Fund, for fiscal year 2027 for the DOH, the HCA and the CYFD. They reviewed the LFC's performance report cards for the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2025 for behavioral health services, the CYFD, the DOH and the HCA. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=11/5/2025&ItemNumber=16>.

Approval of Minutes (11:25 a.m.)

Upon a motion made, and without any objections, the committee approved the minutes of the October 6-9, 2025 meeting.

Status of Nonrecurring Appropriations (11:27 a.m.)

Maggie Klug, program evaluator, LFC; Josh Chaffin, M.A.I.A., program evaluator, LFC; and Dr. Courtney provided an update on the performance of state agency pilot projects funded by nonrecurring appropriations to the Government Results and Opportunity Expendable Trust and the Government Results and Opportunity Program Fund in 2024 and 2025. They highlighted the LFC's creation of a dashboard to track the pilot projects' expenditures and outcomes and discussed considerations for future nonrecurring appropriations through the Government Results and Opportunity Expendable Trust and the Government Results and Opportunity Program Fund. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=11/5/2025&ItemNumber=17>.

Preparing for Extreme Heat: Update and Opportunities (1:03 p.m.)

Nathaniel Matthews-Trigg, M.P.H., C.E.M., member, Board of Directors, Healthy Climate New Mexico; Shelley Mann-Lev, M.P.H., executive director, Healthy Climate New

Mexico; and Charles Goodmacher, M.A., policy advisor, Healthy Climate New Mexico, presented about the rise of extreme heat in New Mexico. They highlighted Healthy Climate New Mexico's collaborations with other agencies to address extreme heat in tribal communities and discussed the proposed heat illness and injury prevention rule being developed by the Occupational Health and Safety Bureau of the Department of Environment. The presenters explained how the state can prepare infrastructure for future extreme heat. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=11/5/2025&ItemNumber=18>.

Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia Task Force (1:55 p.m.)

Angelina Flores-Montoya, Ph.D., R.N., deputy secretary, Aging and Long-Term Services Department, and Donald Smithburg, M.P.A., executive director, Alzheimer's Association, New Mexico Chapter, provided an update on the work of the Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia Task Force, which was created to address the requests of House Memorial 53 (2025). They explained that the task force's priorities are to increase awareness of Alzheimer's disease and dementia risk factors and access to services for Alzheimer's disease and dementia patients. They highlighted the clinical services and resources offered by the University of New Mexico Center for Memory and Aging. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=11/5/2025&ItemNumber=19>.

Solutions to Address Hospital and Independent Medical Practice Administrative Costs (2:48 p.m.)

Miriam Laugesen, Ph.D., associate professor, Department of Health Policy and Management, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University, and Julius L. Chen, Ph.D., assistant professor, Health Policy and Management, Columbia University, provided an update on Columbia University's ongoing research on reducing administrative costs in New Mexico's health care system. Dr. Laugesen explained challenges in administrative processes, billing and payer variation. Dr. Chen outlined the regulation of prior authorization and credentialing processes. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=11/5/2025&ItemNumber=20>.

Transitioning the Medicaid Fee Model (3:54 p.m.)

Michael K. Gusmano, Ph.D., professor, Department of Population Health, College of Health, Lehigh University, presented about Connecticut's Medicaid system transition to an administrative services organization (ASO) in the early 2010s. He explained how the ASO model works and how it compares to other managed care organization models and discussed

how New Mexico's Medicaid system could be evaluated for determining the feasibility of implementing the ASO model. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=11/5/2025&ItemNumber=21>.

Public Comment (4:30 p.m.)

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

Adjournment

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 4:33 p.m.



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