

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

**May 27, 2025
State Capitol, Room 307
Santa Fe**

The first meeting of the Courts, Corrections and Justice Committee was called to order by Senator Joseph Cervantes, chair, on May 27, 2025 at 9:12 a.m. in Room 307 of the State Capitol in Santa Fe.

Present

Sen. Joseph Cervantes, Chair
Rep. Christine Chandler, Vice Chair
Rep. Marianna Anaya
Rep. Janelle Anyanonu
Sen. Crystal Brantley
Rep. William A. Hall II
Rep. Dayan Hochman-Vigil
Sen. Antonio Maestas
Sen. Cindy Nava
Rep. Andrea Reeb

Advisory Members

Rep. Cynthia Borrego
Rep. Eleanor Chávez
Rep. Joanne J. Ferrary
Sen. Steve D. Lanier
Rep. Stefani Lord
Rep. Tara L. Lujan
Rep. Alan T. Martinez
Rep. Debra M. Sariñana
Sen. Mimi Stewart
Sen. Linda M. Trujillo
Sen. Peter Wirth

Guest Legislator

Sen. Linda M. López

Staff

Nancy Martinez, Bill Drafter, Legislative Council Service (LCS)
Sean Dolan, Staff Attorney, LCS

Absent

Rep. Nicole Chavez
Sen. Nicholas A. Paul
Rep. Andrea Romero
Rep. Angelica Rubio
Sen. Antoinette Sedillo Lopez

Rep. Gail Armstrong
Sen. Heather Berghmans
Rep. John Block
Sen. Katy Duhigg
Sen. Natalie Figueroa
Rep. Joy Garratt
Rep. Yanira Gurrola
Sen. Micaelita Debbie O'Malley
Rep. Sarah Silva
Rep. Nathan P. Small
Rep. Reena Szczepanski
Sen. Anthony L. Thornton

Simon Suzuki, Staff Attorney, LCS
Domenica Nieto, Research Assistant, LCS

Guests

The guest list is in the meeting file.

Handouts

Handouts and other written testimony are in the meeting file and are posted on the legislature's website.

References to Webcast

The time reference noted next to each agenda item in this document is cross-referenced to the webcast of the committee meeting, which can be found at www.nmlegis.gov, under the "Webcast" tab. The presentations made and committee discussions for agenda items can be found on the recorded webcast for this meeting.

Tuesday, May 27

Welcome and Introductions (9:13 a.m.)

Senator Cervantes welcomed everyone and laid out a roadmap for how the committee will function during this interim.

House Bill 5 (2025): Children, Youth and Families Department and the Legislature's Hit or Miss? (9:21 a.m.)

Sean Sullivan, special counsel, State Department of Justice; Billy J. Jimenez, deputy attorney general, Civil Affairs, State Department of Justice; Therese Yanan, executive director, attorney at law, Native American Disability Law Center; and Representative Hochman-Vigil presented an overview of House Bill 5, including changes made to the bill in the Senate, and discussed implementation of the bill and what steps still need to be taken. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=CCJ&Date=5/27/2025&ItemNumber=1>.

Ending the Rape Kit Backlog — Intelligent Crime Fighting in 2025 (10:34 a.m.)

Savannah Brandenburg-Koch, deputy district attorney, Second Judicial District; Jack Jacks, deputy district attorney, Second Judicial District; Haley Murphy, deputy district attorney, First Judicial District; and Maria Jose Rodriguez Cadiz, executive director, Solace Sexual Assault Services, discussed the history of the state's backlog of rape kits and what has been done to address the backlog and provided information on what the judicial districts are planning to do to address the issue. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=CCJ&Date=5/27/2025&ItemNumber=2>.

Proposed Interim Work Plan and Meeting Schedule (11:42 a.m.)

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

Adjournment

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.