

**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.