

**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](http://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.