

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

**July 22-24, 2026
New Mexico Highlands University, Student Union Building
800 National Avenue
Las Vegas**

The third meeting of the Courts, Corrections and Justice Committee was called to order by Representative Christine Chandler, chair, on July 22, 2026 at 10:07 a.m. at New Mexico Highlands University in Las Vegas.

Present

Rep. Christine Chandler, Chair
Sen. Joseph Cervantes, Vice Chair
Rep. Marianna Anaya (7/23, 7/24)
Rep. Janelle Anyanonu
Rep. Nicole Chavez
Rep. William A. Hall II
Rep. Dayan Hochman-Vigil (7/22, 7/23)
Sen. Antonio Maestas (7/22)

Absent

Sen. Crystal Brantley
Sen. Cindy Nava
Rep. Andrea Reeb
Rep. Andrea Romero
Rep. Angelica Rubio
Sen. Antoinette Sedillo Lopez
Sen. James G. Townsend

Advisory Members

Rep. John Block
Rep. Eleanor Chávez
Rep. Joy Garratt
Rep. Tara L. Lujan (7/23)
Rep. Alan T. Martinez (7/22)
Sen. Micaelita Debbie O'Malley
Sen. Peter Wirth (7/22)

Rep. Gail Armstrong
Sen. Heather Berghmans
Sen. Pat Boone
Rep. Cynthia Borrego
Sen. Katy Duhigg
Rep. Joanne J. Ferrary
Sen. Natalie Figueroa
Rep. Yanira Gurrola
Sen. Steve D. Lanier
Rep. Stefani Lord
Rep. Debra M. Sariñana
Rep. Sarah Silva
Rep. Nathan P. Small
Sen. Mimi Stewart
Rep. Reena Szczepanski
Sen. Linda M. Trujillo

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

Staff

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

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.

Wednesday, July 22

Welcome Remarks (10:08 a.m.)

Kimberly Blea, interim president, New Mexico Highlands University, welcomed members of the committee to New Mexico Highlands University and provided a quick overview of the university.

Welcome and Introductions (10:19 a.m.)

Representative Chandler welcomed members of the committee and members of the public to the meeting.

Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) Policy Spotlight: Juvenile Justice (10:22 a.m.)

Clayton Lobaugh, program evaluator, LFC, and Josh Chaffin, program evaluator, LFC, presented on a recent LFC report on juvenile justice, including figures regarding juvenile crime and prosecution rates, how juvenile justice referrals are handled and treatment courts for juveniles, and summarized the findings and recommendations of the study. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=CCJ&Date=7/22/2026&ItemNumber=1>.

LFC Action Plan: Reconnecting Disconnected Youth (12:48 p.m.)

Mr. Chaffin and Mr. Lobaugh presented on a recent LFC report on reconnecting disconnected youth, including figures regarding demographics, reasons for disconnection, types of disconnection and where New Mexico ranks nationally, and summarized the findings and recommendations of the study. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=CCJ&Date=7/22/2026&ItemNumber=2>.

Prosecution of Youth as Adults in New Mexico: Policy History, Impact and Alternatives (1:25 p.m.)

Denali Wilson, policy counsel, All Safe New Mexico, and Carissa Holloway, co-founder and board president, (De)serving Life, presented a history of the Children's Code in the state, current and historic sentencing structures and outcomes of adult sentences for youth and presented a number of takeaways and recommendations. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=CCJ&Date=7/22/2026&ItemNumber=3>.

Committee Discussion (2:27 p.m.)

The committee discussed topics for future meetings, including the Children's Code, the Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD) and the New Mexico State Police Division of the Department of Public Safety.

Public Comment (2:44 p.m.)

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

Recess

The meeting recessed at 2:51 p.m.

Thursday, July 23

Reconvene

The meeting reconvened at 9:00 a.m.

Brief Overview of Senate Bill 3 (2025) and House Bill 8 (2025) (Competency) (9:01 a.m.)

Mr. Suzuki provided a summary of Senate Bill 3 (2025) and House Bill 8 (2025). House Bill 8 (2025) was referred to as the "Crime Package". The bill made comprehensive changes to the state's criminal competency procedures, created the crime of "unlawful possession of a weapon conversion device", changed penalties for all auto theft crimes in the Criminal Code, changed penalties for the crimes of "making a bomb scare" and "making a shooting threat", created the fentanyl sentencing enhancement and changed the DWI statutes regarding chemical blood tests and warrants for chemical blood tests. Senate Bill 3 (2025) established a multiyear strategic planning process to reform and fund the state's behavioral health system. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=CCJ&Date=7/22/2026&ItemNumber=4>.

Competency, Assisted Outpatient Treatment and the Behavioral Health Reform and Investment Act Implementation: Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) Update (9:29 a.m.)

Stacey Boone, senior statewide behavioral health program manager, AOC; Pamela Trujillo, program manager, AOC; and Adam Leuschel, senior attorney, AOC, presented a comprehensive overview on the implementation of assisted outpatient treatment and competency

diversion, including where the most progress is made, current outcomes for people diverted, funding issues, what implementation issues have arisen and what changes in the law could assist in implementation. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=CCJ&Date=7/22/2026&ItemNumber=5>.

Available Opportunities to Reduce Incarceration of People Due to Their Disabilities by Effectively Reforming the Behavioral Health System (12:16 p.m.)

Gerald Ortiz y Pino, former state senator, District 12 and member, Behavioral Health Executive Committee, and Peter Cubra, J.D., Coalition for a Safer Albuquerque, presented on the current behavioral health system, including behavioral health needs in the state and funding issues, and presenters proposed potential opportunities to fill in gaps in health care and better use resources. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=CCJ&Date=7/22/2026&ItemNumber=6>.

Behavioral Health Reform and Investment Act Update (12:57 p.m.)

Nick Boukas, director, Behavioral Health Services Division, Health Care Authority, presented a broad overview of the steps taken so far in the implementation of Senate Bill 3 (2025), including issues in the implementation and ideas for better implementation. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=CCJ&Date=7/22/2026&ItemNumber=7>.

Forensic Mental Health Update (1:27 p.m.)

Randy Otto, Ph.D., chief, Division of Forensic Behavioral Sciences, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, University of New Mexico School of Medicine, presented on the progress the University of New Mexico School of Medicine has made in assessing competency and assisted outpatient therapy, including recent training, juvenile competency, current staff, recent departures and staffing needs. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=CCJ&Date=7/22/2026&ItemNumber=8>.

Implementation of House Bill 8 (2025) as It Applies to the New Mexico Behavioral Health Institute at Las Vegas (1:41 p.m.)

Tim Shields, executive director and hospital administrator, New Mexico Behavioral Health Institute at Las Vegas, presented on the impacts of House Bill 8 (2025) on the New Mexico Behavioral Health Institute at Las Vegas, including the increase in referrals, positive impacts and areas for improvement. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=CCJ&Date=7/22/2026&ItemNumber=9>.

Behavioral Health Region 1: Implementation and Planning Process (2:29 p.m.)

Anne Ryan, director, Community Services Department, Santa Fe County, presented on how the behavioral health system is working specifically in Santa Fe County, including current strengths and challenges, recent updates, priorities and budget issues. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=CCJ&Date=7/22/2026&ItemNumber=10>.

Behavioral Health Region 4: Implementation and Planning Process (2:52 p.m.)

Vincent M. Soule, C.Ec.D., M.E.D.P., deputy director, Eastern Plains Council of Governments, presented on the issues facing the eastern portion of the state with regards to setting up behavioral health systems, priorities of the region, differences in approaches from Behavioral Health Region 1, current challenges with provider shortages and transportation and financial issues. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=CCJ&Date=7/22/2026&ItemNumber=11>.

Committee Discussion (3:02 p.m.)

There was no committee discussion.

Public Comment (3:02 p.m.)

There was no public comment.

Recess

The meeting recessed at 3:03 p.m.

Friday, July 24**Reconvene**

The meeting reconvened at 9:01 a.m.

Improving Outcomes for Children and Families: CYFD Investigative Insights and Reforms (9:02 a.m.)

Sean Sullivan, special counsel, Department of Justice, presented a comprehensive look at the Department of Justice's investigation into the CYFD, including specific cases and issues found, systemic problems through the CYFD and extensive legislative proposals from the Department of Justice. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=CCJ&Date=7/22/2026&ItemNumber=12>.

Approval of Minutes (10:08 a.m.)

The committee approved the minutes of the June 22-23, 2026 meeting.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 11:54 a.m.