

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

**June 22-23, 2026
Bernalillo County Chambers at Alvarado Square
415 Silver Avenue SW
Albuquerque**

The second meeting of the Courts, Corrections and Justice Committee was called to order by Representative Christine Chandler, chair, on June 22, 2026 at 9:34 a.m. in the Bernalillo County Chambers at Alvarado Square in Albuquerque.

Present

Rep. Christine Chandler, Chair
Rep. Janelle Anyanonu
Sen. Crystal Brantley
Rep. Nicole Chavez
Rep. William A. Hall II
Sen. Antonio Maestas
Sen. Cindy Nava
Rep. Andrea Reeb
Sen. Antoinette Sedillo Lopez
Sen. James G. Townsend

Absent

Sen. Joseph Cervantes, Vice Chair
Rep. Marianna Anaya
Rep. Dayan Hochman-Vigil
Rep. Andrea Romero
Rep. Angelica Rubio

Advisory Members

Sen. Heather Berghmans (6/22)
Rep. John Block (6/22)
Rep. Cynthia Borrego
Rep. Eleanor Chávez
Rep. Yanira Gurrola
Rep. Stefani Lord (6/22)
Rep. Tara L. Lujan (6/22)
Sen. Micaelita Debbie O'Malley
Rep. Debra M. Sariñana (6/22)
Sen. Linda M. Trujillo (6/22)

Rep. Gail Armstrong
Sen. Pat Boone
Sen. Katy Duhigg
Rep. Joanne J. Ferrary
Sen. Natalie Figueroa
Rep. Joy Garratt
Sen. Steve D. Lanier
Rep. Alan T. Martinez
Rep. Sarah Silva
Rep. Nathan P. Small
Sen. Mimi Stewart
Rep. Reena Szczepanski
Sen. Peter Wirth

(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
Jordan Moats, 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 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 the meeting.

Monday, June 22

Welcome and Introductions (9:34 a.m.)

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

Welcome Remarks (9:43 a.m.)

Cindy Chavez, county manager, Bernalillo County, and Adriann Barboa, commissioner, District 3, Bernalillo County Board of County Commissioners, welcomed the committee and offered brief remarks regarding public safety initiatives in the county.

Prosecution and Public Safety (9:50 a.m.)

Dianna Luce, district attorney, Fifth Judicial District, and Barbara Romo, district attorney, Thirteenth Judicial District, presented on a new rule regarding virtual appearances in the courtroom, case management orders and the future expansion of case management orders to other districts, issues meeting deadlines due to backlogs at the State Crime Lab and pieces of legislation from the 2026 regular session that did not pass but are supported by the New Mexico District Attorney Association.

New Mexico Sentencing Commission — New Initiatives (11:59 a.m.)

Douglas Carver, executive director, New Mexico Sentencing Commission; Keri Thiel, deputy director, New Mexico Sentencing Commission; and Nancy Shane, director of research, New Mexico Sentencing Commission, presented on new analyses and reports completed by the New Mexico Sentencing Commission and data regarding criminal prosecutions in the state and discussed issues regarding gaps in data collection. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=CCJ&Date=6/22/2026&ItemNumber=2>.

Bernalillo County Updates (1:10 p.m.)

Ms. Chavez; Tamera Marcantel, director, Youth Services Center, Bernalillo County; Sarah Spain, senior manager, Behavioral Health Authority, Bernalillo County; Jared Divett, director, Fleet and Facilities Management Department, Public Works Division, Bernalillo County; and Steven Kai Smith, warden, Metropolitan Detention Center, Bernalillo County, presented an update on Bernalillo County's Youth Services Center and Resource Reentry Center, funding needs for facilities in the Second Judicial District and population changes in the Bernalillo County Metropolitan Detention Center. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=CCJ&Date=6/22/2026&ItemNumber=3>.

Public Defender Workloads — New Mexico in the National Context (2:10 p.m.)

Stephen F. Hanlon, J.D., Lawyer Hanlon, and Malia Brink, policy director, Deason Criminal Justice Reform Center, Dedman School of Law, Southern Methodist University, presented on studies regarding the staffing levels of public defender offices in New Mexico and compared the issues facing New Mexico to those of other jurisdictions in the country and spoke about how other states have addressed staffing issues. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=CCJ&Date=6/22/2026&ItemNumber=4>.

The Cost of Critical Caseloads on New Mexicans — Addressing Excessive Workloads to Better Serve Our Communities (2:49 p.m.)

Bennett J. Baur, chief public defender, Public Defender Department (LOPD); Randy M. Chavez, deputy chief public defender for contract counsel legal services, LOPD; Jennifer L. Barela, deputy chief public defender for operations, LOPD; and Sheila Lewis, commissioner, Public Defender Commission, spoke about LOPD staffing issues, attorney burnout and issues regarding having enough contract attorneys and presented data on specific areas of attorney retention. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=CCJ&Date=6/22/2026&ItemNumber=5>.

Committee Discussion (4:01 p.m.)

The committee discussed future agenda items.

Public Comment (4:09 p.m.)

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

Recess

The meeting recessed at 4:17 p.m.

Tuesday, June 23

Reconvene

The meeting reconvened at 8:37 a.m.

Rural Justice and Modernizing the Legal Profession (8:37 a.m.)

The Honorable Julie J. Vargas, chief justice, New Mexico Supreme Court, and the Honorable C. Shannon Bacon, justice, New Mexico Supreme Court, presented on difficulties in the court system and access to justice, initiatives to increase the number of attorneys in rural areas of the state and alternative pathways for attorneys to become licensed. The presentation materials can be found here:

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

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

The committee approved the minutes of the May 21, 2026 meeting.

Bernalillo County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) Initiatives (10:25 a.m.)

John Allen, sheriff, BCSO, and Michael Lucero, behavioral health clinical manager, BCSO, presented on new initiatives, including the use of technology and drones, the BCSO's Behavioral Health Unit, recent operations, the Gateway Center, traffic enforcement and the BCSO's legislative priorities. The presentation materials can be found here:

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

Albuquerque Police Department's Real Time Crime Center: Protecting Physical and Cyber Safety in Albuquerque (12:21 p.m.)

Anthony Montano, major, Real Time Crime Center and Emergency Communications Center, Albuquerque Police Department, and Michael Hernandez, deputy chief of police, Support Services Bureau, Albuquerque Police Department, provided an overview of the Albuquerque Police Department's Real Time Crime Center, including its establishment, current policies and future initiatives. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=CCJ&Date=6/22/2026&ItemNumber=8>.

Tour — Real Time Crime Center (1:45 p.m.)

Committee members and committee staff toured the Albuquerque Police Department's Real Time Crime Center.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.