

**MINUTES  
of the  
SECOND MEETING  
of the  
LEGISLATIVE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**July 10-12, 2023  
Navajo Preparatory School  
Farmington**

The second meeting of the Legislative Health and Human Services Committee was called to order by Senator Gerald Ortiz y Pino, chair, on July 10, 2023 at 9:34 a.m. at Navajo Preparatory School (Navajo Prep) in Farmington.

**Present**

Sen. Gerald Ortiz y Pino, Chair  
Rep. Elizabeth "Liz" Thomson, Vice Chair  
Rep. Eleanor Chávez  
Sen. David M. Gallegos  
Rep. Pamelya Herndon  
Sen. Martin Hickey  
Rep. Jenifer Jones

**Absent**

Sen. Antoinette Sedillo Lopez

**Advisory Members**

Rep. John Block  
Rep. Joanne J. Ferrary  
Rep. Stefani Lord (7/10, 7/11)  
Rep. Tara L. Lujan (7/12)  
Rep. Alan T. Martinez  
Sen. Shannon D. Pinto (7/10)  
Sen. Harold Pope  
Sen. Nancy Rodriguez (7/10, 7/11)

Rep. Kathleen Cates  
Rep. Gail Chasey  
Sen. Katy M. Duhigg  
Rep. Miguel P. García  
Sen. Siah Correa Hemphill  
Rep. Tara Jaramillo  
Rep. D. Wonda Johnson  
Sen. Linda M. Lopez  
Rep. Patricia Roybal Caballero  
Sen. Gregg Schmedes  
Sen. Elizabeth "Liz" Stefanics  
Rep. Reena Szczepanski  
Sen. Bill Tallman  
Rep. Harlan Vincent

**Guest Legislator**

Rep. Rod Montoya (7/10, 7/11)

(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.

**Monday, July 10****Welcome and Introductions (9:34 a.m.)**

Senator Ortiz y Pino welcomed everyone to the meeting, and members of the committee and staff introduced themselves.

**Welcome to Navajo Prep (9:40 a.m.)**

Shawna A. Becenti, head of school, Navajo Prep, welcomed the committee and discussed the institution's history, current academic programs, extracurricular offerings and future plans.

**Higher Education Department (HED) Health Care Workforce Initiatives (10:22 a.m.)**

Stephanie Rodriguez, secretary, HED, and Patricia Trujillo, deputy secretary, HED, provided an update about the agency's initiatives with respect to growing the state's health care workforce.

**Public Comment (12:02 p.m.)**

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

**Social Worker Workforce (1:19 p.m.)**

Judy Barnstone, Ph.D., M.S.W., interim dean and associate professor, Facundo Valdez School of Social Work, New Mexico Highlands University, and Susan Garcia, M.A., chief, Workforce Development Bureau, Children, Youth and Families Department, discussed issues related to growing the social worker workforce, including education, training, licensing and pay, as well as career opportunities. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/LHHS%20071023%20Item%203%20Growing%20the%20Social%20Workforce%20in%20NM.pdf>.

**Recruiting Health Care Professionals (3:03 p.m.)**

Jerry N. Harrison, Ph.D., executive director, New Mexico Health Resources, Inc., and Linda Siegle, lobbyist, New Mexico Nurses Association, explained the challenges associated with recruiting and retaining health care professionals. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=7/10/2023&ItemNumber=4>.

**Brainstorming Session (4:32 p.m.)**

Senator Ortiz y Pino led the committee in a brainstorming session focused on potential legislation that could address the issues presented to the committee.

**Recess**

The meeting recessed at 5:27 p.m.

**Tuesday, July 11****Reconvene**

The meeting reconvened at 8:48 a.m.

**University of New Mexico (UNM) Health Care Workforce Initiatives (8:49 a.m.)**

Hengameh Raissy, Pharm.D., vice president for research, UNM Health Sciences Center (HSC); Patricia Finn, M.D., dean, School of Medicine, UNM HSC; and Carolyn Montoya, Ph.D., R.N., C.P.N.P., F.A.A.N., F.A.A.N.P., interim dean, College of Nursing, UNM HSC, gave a presentation about challenges and opportunities regarding recruiting and retaining health care providers, particularly physicians and nurses. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/LHHS%20071023%20Item%205%20UNM.pdf>.

**Health Care Professional Licensure Update (10:58 a.m.)**

Linda M. Trujillo, superintendent, Regulation and Licensing Department, provided an update about the impact of new legislation pertaining to facilitating health care provider licensing.

**Public Comment (12:09 p.m.)**

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

**Medicaid Reimbursement (1:17 p.m.)**

Kari Armijo, acting secretary, Health Care Authority Department (HCA), and Karmela Martinez, income support division director, HCA, made a presentation regarding the use of

funding to increase Medicaid reimbursement rates and expand covered benefits and services, efforts to improve Medicaid provider network adequacy and new 1115 Waiver developments. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/LHHS%20071023%20Item%207%20Medicaid%20Reimbursement.pdf>.

#### **Addressing the Needs of Physicians (2:53 p.m.)**

Yvette Ramirez Ammerman, M.Ed., chief executive officer, New Mexico Primary Care Association; Andres Gensini, M.D., vice president of clinical affairs, Presbyterian Medical Services; Karen Lynn Carson, M.D., F.A.A.P., BCA Pediatrics; and Carrie Robin Brunder, lobbyist, New Mexico Medical Society, made a presentation about various initiatives to address physician shortages, particularly in rural areas and in certain specialties. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=7/10/2023&ItemNumber=8>.

#### **Approval of Minutes (4:13 p.m.)**

Upon a motion made and duly seconded, and without any objections, the committee approved the minutes of the June 12, 2023 meeting.

#### **Brainstorming Session (4:14 p.m.)**

Senator Ortiz y Pino led the committee in a brainstorming session focused on potential legislation that could address the issues presented to the committee.

#### **Recess**

The meeting recessed at 5:09 p.m.

### **Wednesday, July 12**

#### **Reconvene**

The meeting reconvened at 8:55 a.m.

#### **Intensive Outpatient Behavioral Health Programs (8:56 a.m.)**

Tony Velarde, L.S.A.A., assistant director, Overcomers Counseling LLC, and Rick Quevedo, chief executive officer, Desert View Family Counseling Services, provided information about the services provided by their respective programs in the Farmington area. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/LHHS%20071023%20Item%209%20Overcomers%20Counseling.pdf>.

#### **Nursing Programs (10:57 a.m.)**

Diane Wesner, M.S.N., R.N., associate dean and nursing program director, School of Nursing and Patient Support, Central New Mexico Community College, and Shawna Kemper,

M.S.N., R.N., C.N.E., director of nursing, San Juan College, provided data regarding their respective programs and discussed issues related to shortages within the nursing profession. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=7/10/2023&ItemNumber=10>.

**Public Comment (11:55 a.m.)**

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

**Brainstorming Session (12:15 p.m.)**

Senator Ortiz y Pino led the committee in a brainstorming session focused on potential legislation that could address the issues presented to the committee.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 1:16 p.m.