

2024 APPROVED
WORK PLAN AND MEETING SCHEDULE
for the
LEGISLATIVE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

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Rep. Elizabeth "Liz" Thomson, Vice Chair	Sen. Martin Hickey
Rep. Eleanor Chávez	Rep. Jenifer Jones
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Legislative Health and Humans Services Committee (LHHS)

The LHHS is a permanent joint committee of the legislature created pursuant to Section 2-13-1 NMSA 1978 and is responsible for studying the programs, agencies, policies and needs relating to health and human services, in addition to programs and services for children, families and the aging population.

Work Plan

At its organizational meeting, the LHHS chairs proposed, and the members agreed, to use the first three meetings of the interim as opportunities to focus on the following issues: child welfare; access to health care and expanding the health care workforce; and behavioral health and substance use.

During the first two days of each meeting, the committee will hear testimony from stakeholders, including national experts, state agencies, advocates and members of the public, pertaining to one of these issues. The committee will reserve the third day of each meeting to hear presentations on additional issues of concern.

At the end of each day, the committee chairs will lead a wrap-up session to discuss the issues that were heard that day. Members will be encouraged to engage in collaborative brainstorming sessions with the goal of identifying legislative action that is necessary to address the issues. The chairs will assign follow-up tasks and research questions to committee members

and staff who will work together to craft proposed legislation for discussion at the subsequent meeting. After receiving feedback, staff will work with the committee to revise the proposed legislation in time for the LHHS chairs to present it to the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) when the LFC considers budget priorities in the fall.

Child Welfare

During its June 5-7 meeting, the LHHS will investigate issues affecting children and families, including the federal Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2016 program. The committee will hear from representatives from the Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD) and child welfare advocates to develop solutions that will ensure the safety of New Mexico's children and families.

Access to Health Care and the Health Care Workforce

At its July 1-3 meeting, the committee will examine several strategies for expanding and improving the health care workforce in the state to increase access to health care. The committee will invite representatives from higher education institutions across the state, including the University of New Mexico, New Mexico Highlands University, Eastern New Mexico University, Western New Mexico University and New Mexico State University, to present on current and potential new programs for health care students. The LHHS will also discuss ways to streamline the reimbursement process and increase reimbursement for health care providers practicing in New Mexico. Additionally, the Higher Education Department (HED) will update the committee on its work to promote and expand educational opportunities for students seeking to become health care professionals.

Behavioral Health and Substance Use

During its July 31-August 2 meeting, the LHHS will focus on addressing behavioral health and substance use issues. The Department of Health (DOH), the Corrections Department and the New Mexico Association of Counties will be invited to discuss the expansion of medically assisted treatment for substance use disorder. The committee will also invite representatives from the Health Care Authority (HCA) and the Interagency Behavioral Health Purchasing Collaborative to discuss the demand for and availability of behavioral health services. Additionally, the LHHS will hear from various behavioral health providers across the state. The committee will also investigate methods for addressing the misuse of alcohol and tobacco.

Additional Issues of Concern

In addition to the issues that will be discussed during the committee's first three meetings, the LHHS will examine and receive presentations that address or include the following topics.

A. Agency Updates

The LHHS will invite the secretaries and leadership from the DOH; the HCA; the CYFD; the Aging and Long-Term Services Department; the HED; the Office of Superintendent of Insurance (OSI); the Interagency Behavioral Health Purchasing Collaborative; and the Early

Childhood Education and Care Department to present on the implementation of new programs, legislative priorities and budgetary needs.

B. Aging and Long-Term Services

The LHHS will address several nursing home issues, including liability insurance requirements and expanding and improving the personal care service workforce. Additionally, the committee will explore expanding job training, small business development and job placement services for senior citizens.

C. Disabilities

The committee will invite the HCA to report on the status of various Medicaid waivers for individuals with disabilities. The committee will also address the demand for and availability of services for people living with autism.

D. Environment and Public Health

The LHHS will evaluate the role that the environment plays in public health. For example, the committee will investigate the impact of the recent forest fires in New Mexico on physical and behavioral health.

E. Human Services

The LHHS will oversee multiple important transitions that are taking place in the human services sector. First, the committee will oversee the Human Services Department's transition to the HCA. The committee will be updated on the status of the HCA's social service programs, including Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and Medicaid.

F. Pharmaceutical Drugs

The LHHS will continue its work to ensure that pharmaceutical drugs are affordable and accessible in New Mexico. The committee will hear testimony from the OSI to oversee the implementation of new legislative efforts to control pharmaceutical drug pricing and regulate pharmacy benefits managers. The committee will continue to identify potential new strategies for ensuring the affordability and accessibility of pharmaceutical drugs.

G. Previously Introduced Bills

The committee will hear testimony from sponsors who plan to reintroduce bills that were not signed into law.

H. Reporting

The committee will receive statutorily required and legislatively requested reports from various working groups and task forces. Task forces that are not required by statute to present a report to the LHHS will be asked to submit the task force's annual report to LHHS staff for email distribution to committee members.

I. School-Based Health Centers

The LHHS will invite the DOH to provide updates on school-based health center programs in New Mexico.

J. Other Health and Human Services Issues

As necessary, the LHHS will examine other issues relevant to health and human services.

**Legislative Health and Human Services Committee
2024 Approved Meeting Schedule**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
May 7-8	Santa Fe
June 5-7	Albuquerque
July 1-3	Taos
July 31-August 2	Portales
August 26-28	Socorro
September 23-25	Silver City
October 21-24	Rio Rancho
November 19-22	Santa Fe