

**2020 PROPOSED
WORK PLAN AND MEETING SCHEDULE
for the
LEGISLATIVE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE,
DISABILITIES CONCERNS SUBCOMMITTEE
and
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SUBCOMMITTEE**

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Disabilities Concerns Subcommittee

Members

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Sen. Nancy Rodriguez, Vice Chair
Rep. Rachel A. Black

Sen. Linda M. Lopez
Sen. Mark Moores
Rep. Elizabeth "Liz" Thomson

Advisory Members

Rep. Deborah A. Armstrong
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Sen. Elizabeth "Liz" Stefanics

Behavioral Health Subcommittee

Members

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Rep. Elizabeth "Liz" Thomson

Legislative Health and Human Services Committee (LHHS) and Subcommittees

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. The Disabilities Concerns Subcommittee (DCS) is a permanent subcommittee of the LHHS, created pursuant to Section 2-13-3.1 NMSA 1978, and the Behavioral Health Subcommittee (BHS) was established by the New Mexico Legislative Council on July 7, 2020.

Work Plan

The topics that the LHHS proposes to discuss during the 2020 interim include the following.

Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

The LHHS proposes to focus on the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly its impact on the demand for and the delivery of health and human services programs. The committee proposes to begin the interim by inviting the secretary of health and the secretary of human services to provide a joint presentation on the statewide response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Additionally, the committee proposes to invite the secretary of environment to discuss how the Occupational Health and Safety Bureau works with employers throughout the state when those employers have COVID-19-positive employees.

Throughout the interim, the committee proposes to call on additional cabinet secretaries, as well as leadership from the health care industry and human services providers, to testify about the challenges associated with delivering services against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Aging and Long-Term Care Services

The LHHS proposes to focus on New Mexico's long-term care facilities, which have been heavily impacted by the spread of COVID-19. In addition, the committee proposes to hear testimony from the Aging and Long-Term Services Department's long-term care ombudsman and the department's Adult Protective Services Division in regard to growing concern for the well-being of vulnerable adults.

Children and Families

The LHHS proposes to invite the secretary of the newly launched Early Childhood Education and Care Department to report on the department's progress to implement its plan to align the support of young children through the state's prenatal-to-five services, as well as a range of federal programs.

In addition, the committee proposes to invite the secretary of children, youth and families to testify about efforts to prevent child abuse and neglect when families are under increasing stress and are more isolated from their support networks and to report on the continuing shift to kinship care and access to community-based services.

Health Care Workforce

To address New Mexico's ongoing health care provider shortages, the LHHS proposes to invite the chair of the New Mexico Health Care Workforce Committee to present that committee's annual report. Additionally, the LHHS proposes to hear testimony from the Workforce Solutions Department, educational institutions and professional associations engaged in initiatives focused on growing the health care workforce in New Mexico.

Human Services

The LHHS proposes to assess the impact of budget cuts on programs that provide services to eligible low-income individuals and families, including income support and food assistance. The LHHS also proposes to invite representatives from programs that prevent homelessness, human trafficking, child abuse, domestic violence and sexual assault.

Health Insurance

In the context of concerns about unemployed New Mexico residents losing health coverage, the LHHS proposes to invite the superintendent of insurance to report on the availability and cost of health insurance benefits, network adequacy and carrier practices. The committee also proposes to hear testimony regarding the fiscal analysis of the proposed Health Security Act completed by KNG Health Consulting, LLC.

Medicaid

The LHHS proposes to examine different aspects of New Mexico's Medicaid program, including access to care, long-term care waiting lists, provider networks and reimbursement rates. In addition, the committee proposes to hear testimony about actions being taken by the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and,

in particular, the initiatives developed to allow state programs greater administrative flexibility in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. Finally, the LHHS proposes to revisit the development of a Medicaid buy-in plan.

Pharmaceuticals

The LHHS proposes to hear testimony relating to efforts to control the cost of pharmaceuticals, including the wholesale importation of certain prescription drugs.

Scope of Practice and Licensure

In response to ongoing issues relating to changes in the scope of practice for professionals in the health and human services sector, the LHHS proposes to hear the perspectives of the boards, commissions, affected professionals and the community.

Task Force Reporting

The committee proposes to receive statutorily required and legislatively requested reports from various working groups and task forces.

Behavioral Health Subcommittee

In response to increasing rates of substance use, anxiety and depression triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent economic downturn, the BHS proposes to turn its attention to the availability of behavioral health resources in communities throughout New Mexico. Additionally, the subcommittee proposes to examine issues pertaining to improving outcomes in the delivery of behavioral health services to individuals with developmental disabilities and to examine law enforcement's use of deadly force against individuals with mental illnesses.

Disabilities Concerns Subcommittee

The DCS proposes to address expanding the authority and oversight of the Developmental Disabilities Planning Council over guardianship and conservatorship. The subcommittee also proposes to discuss supported decision making in lieu of guardianship and to hear an update on the developmental disabilities and Mi Via waiver programs, including successes and challenges. Finally, the subcommittee proposes to consider measures to ensure that individuals with disabilities who are admitted to hospitals can be accompanied by support staff and advocates.

**Legislative Health and Human Services Committee
2020 Proposed Meeting Schedule**

The Legislative Health and Human Services Committee proposes to conduct its meetings by video conference on the following dates:

July 31

August 21

September 4

September 16

September 24-25

October 13

October 21-22

November 12

Behavioral Health Subcommittee

The Behavioral Health Subcommittee proposes to conduct a meeting in the House Chambers on August 20, but members may attend by video conference.

Disabilities Concerns Subcommittee

The Disabilities Concerns Subcommittee proposes to conduct a meeting by video conference on September 17.