

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

**December 7-8, 2022  
Continuing Education Building, Room D  
University of New Mexico  
1634 University Boulevard NE  
Albuquerque**

The eighth meeting of the Courts, Corrections and Justice Committee was called to order by Senator Antonio Maestas on December 7, 2022 at 9:54 a.m. in Room D of the Continuing Education Building at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque.

**Present**

Sen. Joseph Cervantes, Co-Chair (12/8)  
Rep. Gail Chasey, Co-Chair  
Rep. Eliseo Lee Alcon  
Rep. Linda Garcia Benavides  
Rep. Christine Chandler\*  
Sen. Daniel A. Ivey-Soto  
Sen. Bill B. O'Neill (12/8)  
Rep. Debra M. Sariñana  
Sen. Antoinette Sedillo Lopez

**Advisory Members**

Sen. Gregory A. Baca  
Rep. Micaela Lara Cadena (via Zoom) (12/7)  
Sen. Linda M. Lopez  
Sen. Antonio Maestas  
Rep. Patricia Roybal Caballero

**Absent**

Rep. Karen C. Bash  
Rep. Zachary J. Cook  
Sen. Mark Moores  
Sen. Cliff R. Pirtle  
Rep. William "Bill" R. Rehm  
Rep. Christine Trujillo

Sen. Katy M. Duhigg  
Rep. Kelly K. Fajardo  
Rep. Doreen Y. Gallegos  
Rep. T. Ryan Lane  
Rep. Georgene Louis  
Rep. Roger E. Montoya  
Rep. Andrea Romero  
Sen. Mimi Stewart  
Sen. Peter Wirth

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

\*Appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives as a voting member for this meeting only.

## **Staff**

Sean Dolan, Staff Attorney, Legislative Council Service (LCS)

Christopher Copeland, Staff Attorney, LCS

Nancy Martinez, Research Assistant, LCS

Grecia Duarte, Intern, LCS

## **Minutes Approval**

Because the committee will not meet again this year, the minutes for this meeting have not been officially approved by the committee.

## **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](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.

## **Wednesday, December 7**

### **Corrections Oversight (10:00 a.m.)**

Barron Jones, senior policy strategist, American Civil Liberties Union of New Mexico, and Representative Cadena presented information regarding the need for independent oversight and potential avenues for legislation to address that need. The presentation can be found here:

[https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/CCJ%20120722%20Item%201%20NM%20Independent%20Oversight%20\(Ombudsman\).pdf](https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/CCJ%20120722%20Item%201%20NM%20Independent%20Oversight%20(Ombudsman).pdf).

### **Solitary Confinement (1:09 p.m.)**

Mr. Jones led a discussion regarding potential changes to what is referred to as restrictive housing.

### **Proposed Changes to Felony Sentencing Structure (2:36 p.m.)**

Douglas Carver, deputy director, New Mexico Sentencing Commission (NMSC); Kim Chavez Cook, appellate defender, Public Defender Department; and Angela Pacheco, chair, NMSC Reform Committee, presented the information gathered so far by the NMSC's working group evaluating the Criminal Code and sentencing structure. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=CCJ&Date=12/7/2022&ItemNumber=3>.

### **Corrections Oversight Staff Review (4:02 p.m.)**

Hugh Dangler, corrections oversight consultant, Courts, Corrections and Justice Committee, provided his thoughts regarding the progress of his work so far, as well as potential changes that may be proposed. The presentation materials may be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=CCJ&Date=12/7/2022&ItemNumber=4>.

### **Recess**

The meeting recessed at 4:38 p.m.

### **Thursday, December 8**

### **Senate Memorial 6 (2022) and House Memorial 11 (2022) Task Force (9:51 a.m.)**

Celeste Gander, policy specialist, Crime and Justice Institute (CJI); Jessie Halladay, senior policy analyst, CJI; Grace Philips, general counsel, New Mexico Counties; Scott Patterson, statewide behavioral health manager, Administrative Office of the Courts; Linda Freeman, executive director, NMSC; Justin Porter, detention administrator, Detention Center, Chaves County; Chris Brice, county manager, Luna County; and Alisha Tafoya Lucero, secretary, Corrections Department, presented an overview of the report compiled by the task force, including recommendations for statutory and budgetary changes. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=CCJ&Date=12/7/2022&ItemNumber=5>.

### **Approval of Minutes (11:27 a.m.)**

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, and without any objections, the committee approved the minutes of the November 21-22, 2022 meeting.

### **Welcome Remarks (12:35 p.m.)**

Camille Carey, dean, University of New Mexico School of Law, gave an overview of the School of Law and recent changes in faculty, programming and scholarships.

### **Probation and Parole Reform (1:20 p.m.)**

Jenna Bottler, deputy director, Justice Action Network, provided the committee with national and local statistics regarding probation and parole, factors leading to probation and parole violations and potential reforms. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/CCJ%20120722%20Item%206%20NM%20P%20and%20P%20Hearing.pdf>.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 3:04 p.m.