

**MINUTES  
of the  
SECOND MEETING  
of the  
ECONOMIC AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND POLICY COMMITTEE**

**July 6-7, 2023  
WORKforce Training Center  
Central New Mexico Community College  
5600 Eagle Rock Avenue NE  
Albuquerque**

The second meeting of the Economic and Rural Development and Policy Committee was called to order by Senator Carrie Hamblen, chair, on July 6, 2023 at 10:19 a.m. in the WORKforce Training Center of Central New Mexico Community College (CNM) in Albuquerque.

**Present**

Sen. Carrie Hamblen, Chair  
Rep. Doreen Y. Gallegos, Vice Chair  
Rep. Janelle Anyanonu (7/6)  
Rep. Gail Armstrong  
Sen. Ron Griggs  
Sen. Siah Correa Hemphill  
Rep. Joshua N. Hernandez  
Rep. Charlotte Little (7/7)  
Rep. Tara L. Lujan  
Rep. Kristina Ortez

**Absent**

Rep. Ambrose Castellano  
Sen. Crystal R. Diamond  
Rep. Jenifer Jones  
Sen. Patricia A. Lundstrom  
Sen. Antonio Maestas  
Rep. Jimmy G. Mason  
Sen. George K. Muñoz  
Sen. Cliff R. Pirtle  
Rep. Linda Serrato  
Sen. Benny Shendo, Jr.  
Rep. Martin R. Zamora

**Advisory Members**

Rep. Anthony Allison (7/7)  
Rep. Joy Garratt  
Rep. Pamelya Herndon  
Rep. Susan K. Herrera (7/6)  
Rep. D. Wonda Johnson (7/6)  
Rep. Alan T. Martinez  
Rep. Marian Matthews  
Rep. Tanya Mirabal Moya  
Rep. Rod Montoya  
Rep. William "Bill" R. Rehm  
Rep. Patricia Roybal Caballero (7/6)  
Sen. Elizabeth "Liz" Stefanics  
Sen. Bill Tallman

Rep. Eliseo Lee Alcon  
Rep. Cynthia Borrego  
Sen. William F. Burt  
Sen. Katy M. Duhigg  
Rep. Mark Duncan  
Rep. Derrick J. Lente  
Rep. Willie D. Madrid  
Rep. Andrea Romero  
Sen. Joshua A. Sanchez  
Rep. Reena Szczepanski

**Guest Legislator**

Sen. Linda M. Lopez

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

**Staff**

Erin Bond, Researcher, Legislative Council Service (LCS)  
D. Martin Fischer, Staff Attorney, LCS  
Nicole Waguespack, Researcher, LCS

**Guests**

The guest list is available 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.

**Thursday, July 6****Welcome and Introductions (10:19 a.m.)**

Senator Hamblen welcomed committee members and guests to the meeting.

**Welcome to CNM (10:20 a.m.)**

Tracy Hartzler, president, CNM, welcomed the committee to the CNM campus and provided a brief overview of CNM programs and enrollment within their career technical education, or "trades", curriculum.

**Diversity in Business (10:49 a.m.)**

Kristelle Siarza, volunteer executive director, Asian Business Collaborative; Ernie C'deBaca, president and chief executive officer, Albuquerque Hispano Chamber of Commerce; Cathryn McGill, founder and director, New Mexico Black Leadership Council; and Marvis Aragon, Jr., executive director, American Indian Chamber of Commerce of New Mexico, introduced themselves and their respective organizations. Ms. Siarza advocated for funding an Asian cultural center to provide a gathering place for classes, functions and events and for the creation of an Asian commission to further the development of Asian businesses and existing organizations. Mr. C'deBaca addressed the importance of small businesses to the New Mexico economy. He emphasized the need to streamline regulations that prohibit the growth of small businesses, expand programs promoting development and increase collaboration between small business owners and the legislature. Ms. McGill, noting that less than one percent of New Mexico businesses are Black-owned, stressed the importance of workforce development and the collection of more comprehensive and accurate data on Black-owned businesses and employers. Mr. Aragon spoke about the Native Economic and Development Initiative focused on indigenous

business development, capacity building, access to capital, education and policy research. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=ERDPC&Date=7/6/2023&ItemNumber=2>.

#### **Career and Technical Education in Albuquerque Public Schools (1:48 p.m.)**

Tori Stephens-Shauger, director, Career Technical Education, Career Connected Learning, Albuquerque Public School District, presented an overview of the recently relaunched Career Connected Learning program designed to focus on quality programs of study and the delivery of deliberate educational guidance from elementary to high school. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/ERDPC%20070623%20Item%203%20CTE%20at%20APS%20talking%20points.pdf>.

#### **Local News Fellowship Program (2:58 p.m.)**

Rashad Mahmood, executive director, New Mexico Local News Fund, and Mike Marcotte, professor of practice, Communication and Journalism Department, University of New Mexico, presented information on the importance of local news and the success of the New Mexico Local News Fellowship and Internship Program. The fellowship/internship program is open to all New Mexico college graduates and pairs aspiring journalists with local news organizations. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=ERDPC&Date=7/6/2023&ItemNumber=4>.

#### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

#### **Recess**

The meeting recessed at 4:14 p.m.

#### **Friday, July 7**

#### **Reconvene**

The meeting reconvened at 9:11 a.m.

#### **Underrepresented Populations in Trades and Apprenticeships (9:13 a.m.)**

Ms. Hartzler; Sharon Gordon-Moffet, associate dean, Skilled Trades and Arts, CNM; Erin Johnson-Kruft, senior director, Employer and Industry Engagement, CNM; and Joan Day-Baker, director, Political Affairs and Outreach, United Association Local Union 412, presented information on workforce participation and barriers within the New Mexico trades.

Ms. Gordon-Moffet reviewed current CNM "skilled trades" funding and programs, growth among women participants and the success of the 2022 Women in Trades Summit and emphasized the need to overcome stigmas associated with women in trade professions. Ms.

Johnson-Kruft elaborated on CNM trade funding and highlighted recent CNM reorganization efforts to further support employee/industry partnerships and work-based learning opportunities. Ms. Day-Baker, noting efforts to support more apprenticeship training in rural and tribal communities, identified four challenges: access, funding, the availability of work and the lack of code enforcement. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=ERDPC&Date=7/6/2023&ItemNumber=5>.

#### **Update on New Mexico's Real Estate Development Process (11:03 a.m.)**

Marla Shoats, lobbyist, New Mexico Chapter of the National Association for Industrial and Office Parks (NAIOP); Rhiannon Samuel, executive director, New Mexico Chapter of NAIOP; and Toby Burke, associate vice president, State and Local Affairs, NAIOP, presented on commercial real estate development. The presenters discussed the permit review process and gave a brief description of recent legislation enacted in other states regarding that process. They stressed the need for predictable time-limit-based permitting procedures. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=ERDPC&Date=7/6/2023&ItemNumber=6>.

#### **Supporting Employees with Disabilities (1:07 p.m.)**

Bernadine Chavez, director of program services, Disability Rights New Mexico (DRNM); Robin Garrison, voting and assistive technology lead and advocate, DRNM; and Casey Stone-Romero, director, Vocational Rehabilitation Division, Public Education Department, provided a summary of resources and services provided by their organizations. Ms. Chavez and Ms. Garrison discussed the concept of "reasonable accommodation" for employees, emphasizing that it is an interactive process. Ms. Stone-Romero addressed student and adult service needs and employment services. The panelists all emphasized the importance of compliance with federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 guidelines and their role in providing assistance to both employers and potential employees. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=ERDPC&Date=7/6/2023&ItemNumber=7>.

#### **Adjournment**

Senator Hamblen announced that legislation to be endorsed by the committee must be requested from the Legislative Council Service no later than the September 2023 meeting. There being no further business before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:19 p.m.