

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

**July 11-13, 2022
Continuing Education Building, Rooms B and C
University of New Mexico
Albuquerque**

The second meeting of the Legislative Health and Human Services Committee (LHHS) was called to order by Representative Christine Trujillo, chair, on July 11, 2022 at 8:45 a.m. at the Continuing Education Building of the University of New Mexico (UNM) in Albuquerque.

Present

Rep. Christine Trujillo, Chair
Sen. Gerald Ortiz y Pino, Vice Chair
Sen. Antoinette Sedillo Lopez
Rep. Elizabeth "Liz" Thomson (7/11, 7/12)

Absent

Rep. Gail Armstrong
Rep. Joanne J. Ferrary
Sen. David M. Gallegos
Sen. Martin Hickey

Advisory Members

Rep. Karen C. Bash
Rep. Rachel A. Black
Rep. Gail Chasey
Rep. Kelly K. Fajardo
Rep. Miguel P. Garcia
Sen. Siah Correa Hemphill (7/12)
Sen. Linda M. Lopez (7/11, 7/13)
Rep. Tara L. Lujan
Rep. Marian Matthews
Sen. Nancy Rodriguez (7/12, 7/13)
Sen. Elizabeth "Liz" Stefanics (7/11, 7/13)
Sen. Bill Tallman

Rep. Phelps Anderson
Rep. Deborah A. Armstrong
Rep. Micaela Lara Cadena
Rep. Rebecca Dow
Sen. Katy M. Duhigg
Rep. D. Wonda Johnson
Rep. Roger E. Montoya
Sen. Shannon D. Pinto
Rep. Patricia Roybal Caballero
Sen. Gregg Schmedes

Guest Legislators

Rep. Stefani Lord
Sen. Harold Pope (7/13)

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

Staff

Andrea Lazarow, Bill Drafter, Legislative Council Service (LCS)
Zander Dawson, Bill Drafter, LCS
Erin Bond, Researcher, LCS
Laura Valdez, Facilitator, LCS

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, 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 11

Welcome and Introductions (8:45 a.m.)

Representative Trujillo welcomed everyone to the meeting, and members of the committee and staff introduced themselves.

Interagency Behavioral Health Purchasing Collaborative Updates (8:54 a.m.)

Bryce Pittenger, L.P.C.C., chief executive officer, Interagency Behavioral Health Purchasing Collaborative, Human Services Department (HSD), provided a presentation on the Interagency Behavioral Health Purchasing Collaborative's history, ongoing programs and goals for the future. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=7/11/2022&ItemNumber=1>.

Behavioral Health Services Available Through Medicaid (9:44 a.m.)

Neal A. Bowen, Ph.D., director, Behavioral Health Services Division, HSD, provided a presentation on the new 988 Crisis Now hotline. The presentation explained how the 988 hotline will work and outlined the plans for implementing the hotline. Annabelle Martinez, bureau chief, Benefits and Reimbursement Bureau, Medical Assistance Division, HSD, provided a presentation on the HSD's plans to expand access to behavioral health care services through Medicaid. Several initiatives to increase access to behavioral health care services were discussed, including the expansion of mobile crisis teams, the 988 hotline implementation and a comprehensive review of how providers are reimbursed through Medicaid. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/LHHS%20071122%20Item%20%20A%20BHS.pdf>.

Access to Behavioral Health Care Employing the Project ECHO Model (10:55 a.m.)

Sanjeev Arora, M.D., founder and executive director, Project ECHO, and professor, UNM School of Medicine, provided an overview of the Project ECHO program. Dr. Arora also explained how Project ECHO has been used to increase access to behavioral health care services across New Mexico. Dr. Arora discussed his plans for expanding Project ECHO. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/LHHS%20071122%20Item%203%20Project%20ECHO.pdf>.

Public Comment (11:39 a.m.)

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

Lunch and Welcome to UNM (11:57 a.m.)

Garnett S. Stokes, president, UNM, welcomed the committee to UNM.

Strengthening Behavioral Health Systems (1:00 p.m.)

Mauricio Tohen, M.D., professor and chair, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, UNM School of Medicine, provided a presentation on New Mexico's behavioral health care needs. Dr. Tohen gave an overview of the programs at the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the UNM School of Medicine. Rodney McNease, executive director of governmental affairs, UNM Hospitals, outlined potential programs that could make behavioral health care more accessible and effective. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/LHHS%20071122%20Item%204%20Strengthening%20BH%20Systems.pdf>.

Department of Health (DOH) Treatment Facilities (2:00 p.m.)

Lea J. Harrison, deputy secretary of facilities, DOH, provided a presentation on DOH behavioral health care facilities and explained the challenges that have been affecting the DOH behavioral health care facilities. The presentation explained how the Calf Canyon/Hermits Peak fire affected the New Mexico Behavioral Health Institute at Las Vegas. Other challenges that were discussed included staffing shortages and unclear admissions criteria. The presentation also included potential solutions for the challenges at the DOH behavioral health care facilities. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/LHHS%20071122%20Item%205%20DOH%20Facilities.pdf>.

Recommendations from the New Mexico First Statewide Town Hall on Behavioral Health (2:30 p.m.)

Michael Barndollar, board member, New Mexico First, and Melissa Toledo-Ontiveros, board member, New Mexico First, provided a presentation on the recommendations from the New Mexico First Statewide Town Hall on Behavioral Health. The recommendations included growing the behavioral health care workforce, leveraging and elevating lived experiences and

increasing housing for people in need of behavioral health care services. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=7/11/2022&ItemNumber=6>.

Brainstorming Session (2:48 p.m.)

Senator Ortiz y Pino, vice chair, LHHS, led the committee in a brainstorming session focused on thinking of ideas for potential legislation that could address the needs of the behavioral health care system in New Mexico.

Recess

The meeting recessed at 3:37 p.m.

Tuesday, July 12

Reconvene

The meeting reconvened at 9:01 a.m.

School-Based Health Centers (9:06 a.m.)

Laura Parajon, M.D., deputy secretary, DOH, explained the benefits of school-based health centers. Kristin Oreskovich, D.N.P., C.P.N.P., clinical operations manager, School-Based Health Care, DOH, and Nancy Rodriguez, executive director, New Mexico Alliance for School-Based Health Care, provided a combined presentation on school-based health centers. The presentation provided background information on school-based health centers and explained how school-based health centers expand access to behavioral health care for children. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/LHHS%20071122%20Item%207%20SBHC.pdf>.

Bernalillo County Behavioral Health Services (9:48 a.m.)

Marcia Harris, Ph.D., clinical psychologist, Department of Behavioral Health Services, Bernalillo County; Reina Martinez, Department of Behavioral Health Services, Bernalillo County; and Charlie Verploegh, Ph.D., assistant director, Bernalillo County Behavioral Health Initiative, provided a presentation on the current behavioral health care programs in Bernalillo County. The presenters also explained their plans for expanding behavioral health care services in Bernalillo County. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=7/11/2022&ItemNumber=8>.

Reducing Incarceration and Improving Outcomes for People with Frequent System Contact (10:16 a.m.)

Amy Button, project manager, Behavioral Health, Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center; Hallie Fader-Towe, J.D., deputy division director, Behavioral Health, CSG Justice Center; and Arthur W. Pepin, director, Administrative Office of the Courts, provided a presentation on several programs that help people in the justice system who have behavioral health issues. The programs include the Stepping Up Initiative, the States Supporting Familiar Faces Initiative and the New Mexico Supreme Court Commission on Mental Health and Competency. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/LHHS%20071122%20Item%209%20Council%20of%20State%20Governments.pdf>.

Preventing and Treating Sexual Assault (10:55 a.m.)

Alexandria V. Taylor, M.P.A., deputy director, New Mexico Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs, Inc.; Jess Clark, director of sexual violence prevention, New Mexico Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs, Inc.; and Stephanie Wood, executive director, Valencia Shelter Services, provided a presentation on sexual assault treatment programs. The presenters thanked the committee for funding that was provided during the 2022 legislative session. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/LHHS%20071122%20Item%2010%20NMCSAP.pdf>.

Naturopathic Medicine and Behavioral Health (11:25 a.m.)

Lily-Marie Blecher, N.D., D.O.M.; Allison Donnell, N.D., D.O.M.; and Andrea Bustamante, N.D., D.O.M., provided a presentation on naturopathic medicine. The presenters explained how naturopathic doctors can provide various forms of health care, including behavioral health care. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/LHHS%20071122%20Item%2011%20Naturopaths.pdf>.

Diversion Programs (12:58 p.m.)

Connie Elizabeth Vigil, behavioral health master plan coordinator, Bernalillo County Behavioral Health Committee, and president, Greater Albuquerque Business Alliance, gave a presentation that advocated for mental health diversion programs in the court system. The presentation highlighted a behavioral health diversion program in Miami, Florida that could be a model for potential diversion programs. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=7/11/2022&ItemNumber=12>.

Psychedelic Therapy (1:26 p.m.)

Marisa L. C de Baca, board president, New Mexico Psychedelic Sciences Society; Lawrence Leeman, M.D., M.P.H., professor, Family and Community Medicine, UNM School of Medicine, and medical director, Milagro Program, UNM; and Gerald Valentine, M.D., provided

a presentation on the use of psilocybin and MDMA to treat mental illness. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/LHHS%20071122%20Item%2013%20Psychadelics%20Therapy.pdf>.

Recommendations for Recruiting Behavioral Health Providers (1:56 p.m.)

Jerry N. Harrison, Ph.D., executive director, New Mexico Health Resources, Inc., and Melissa Candelaria, senior recruiter, New Mexico Health Resources, Inc., explained the challenges in recruiting more behavioral health care providers to New Mexico. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=7/11/2022&ItemNumber=14>.

Pear Therapeutics (2:25 p.m.)

Mark Mendoza, director, State Government Affairs, Pear Therapeutics, provided a presentation on a new phone application designed to treat people with opioid use disorder. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=7/11/2022&ItemNumber=15>.

Local Excise Tax on Alcohol (2:40 p.m.)

Senator Ortiz y Pino provided a presentation on potential approaches for funding new behavioral health care initiatives. The presentation explored the merits of creating a local option excise tax on alcohol.

Brainstorming (3:02 p.m.)

Senator Ortiz y Pino led the committee in a brainstorming session focused on thinking of ideas for potential legislation that could address the needs of the behavioral health care system in New Mexico.

Recess

The meeting recessed at 4:19 p.m.

Wednesday, July 13

Reconvene

The meeting reconvened at 9:04 a.m.

Understanding the Budget Process (9:05 a.m.)

Charles Sallee, deputy director, Legislative Finance Committee (LFC), provided a presentation on the legislative budget process. The presentation gave an overview of the time line for developing the budget and explained the methods that the LFC uses to develop the budget. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/LHHS%20071122%20Item%2017%20LFC%20Budget.pdf>.

Public Comment (10:12 a.m.)

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

Working Session (10:18 a.m.)

The committee began work on developing legislation to address behavioral health care needs in New Mexico. The committee discussed issues related to behavioral health care and the potential solutions for the issues.

Working Session (1:04 p.m.)

The committee continued work on developing legislation to address behavioral health care needs in New Mexico.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:42 p.m.