

MINUTES
of the
SEVENTH MEETING
of the
LEGISLATIVE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

October 21, 2020
Video Conference Meeting

The seventh meeting of the Legislative Health and Human Services Committee was called to order by Senator Gerald Ortiz y Pino, chair, on October 21, 2020 at 9:04 a.m. by video and audio conference via an online platform.

Present

Sen. Gerald Ortiz y Pino, Chair
Rep. Deborah A. Armstrong, Vice Chair
Rep. Gail Armstrong
Rep. Joanne J. Ferrary

Absent

Sen. Gregg Fulfer
Rep. D. Wonda Johnson
Sen. Bill B. O'Neill
Sen. Cliff R. Pirtle

Advisory Members

Rep. Karen C. Bash
Rep. Micaela Lara Cadena
Rep. Art De La Cruz
Rep. Rebecca Dow
Rep. Miguel P. Garcia
Sen. Linda M. Lopez
Rep. Tara L. Lujan
Sen. Michael Padilla
Sen. Mary Kay Papen
Rep. Patricia Roybal Caballero
Sen. Antoinette Sedillo Lopez
Sen. Elizabeth "Liz" Stefanics
Rep. Elizabeth "Liz" Thomson
Rep. Christine Trujillo

Rep. Phelps Anderson
Rep. Rachel A. Black
Rep. Zachary J. Cook
Rep. Doreen Y. Gallegos
Rep. Dayan Hochman-Vigil
Sen. Gay G. Kernan
Rep. Rodolpho "Rudy" S. Martinez
Sen. Mark Moores
Sen. Nancy Rodriguez
Rep. Andrea Romero
Rep. Gregg Schmedes
Sen. William P. Soules
Sen. Bill Tallman

Guest Legislators

Rep. Willie D. Madrid
Rep. Marian Matthews

Staff

Andrea Lazarow, Legislative Council Service (LCS)
Sabina Gaynor, LCS
Ariel MacMillan-Sanchez, LCS
Nancy Martinez, LCS

Handouts

Handouts and other written testimony are in the meeting file and posted on the legislature's website.

Wednesday, October 21

Welcome and Introductions (9:04 a.m.)

Senator Ortiz y Pino and Representative Deborah A. Armstrong welcomed committee members and attendees.

Hospital Finances: Federal and State Funding Sources; The Impact of COVID-19 (9:20 a.m.)

Troy Clark, president and chief executive officer, New Mexico Hospital Association (NMHA); Pamela Blackwell, director, Policy and Member Services, NMHA; Christina Campos, administrator, Guadalupe County Hospital; and Sabrina Martin, chief executive officer, Rehabilitation Hospital of Southern New Mexico, provided a presentation on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on hospital financing. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/LHHS%20102120%20Item%201%20nmha%20to%20lhhs,%20hospital%20finance%20TO%20COMMITTEE%2010-06-20.pdf>.

Questions and comments from committee members addressed the following topics:

- how billing and reimbursement are being handled for the uninsured;
- whether any hospitals in New Mexico are having success with federal Health Resources and Services Administration funding;
- how the state can envision a system for hospitals that would save money and reduce consumer payments;
- what long-term care facilities are available for patients rehabilitating from COVID-19;
- how rural hospitals are coping with COVID-19; and
- why hospital service prices are increasing.

Telehealth: Keeping Us Connected to Care; Now More Than Ever (11:20 a.m.)

Sanjeev Arora, M.D., director and founder, Project ECHO, University of New Mexico School of Medicine; Beth Landon, board chair, New Mexico Telehealth Alliance; project director, Rehoboth McKinley Christian Health Care Services; Stetson Berg, board vice chair, New Mexico Telehealth Alliance; interim director, Center for Telehealth, University of New Mexico; and Valory Wangler, M.D., F.A.A.F.P., chief medical officer, COVID-19 incident command lead, and program director, Family Medicine Residency, Rehoboth McKinley Christian Health Care Services, provided a presentation on telehealth in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=10/21/2020&ItemNumber=2>.

Questions and comments from committee members addressed the following topics:

- the difference between telehealth care and telemedicine;
- the amount of control states have over Medicaid;
- what legislators can do to ensure that telemedicine is accessible in rural New Mexico;
- whether the panelists have additional recommendations for containing the spread of COVID-19;
- whether panelists have found avenues for funding to ensure broadband access across the state; and
- that telehealth care is a tool that must be used to continue to provide access, even after the COVID-19 pandemic.

Public Comment (2:02 p.m.)

Comments from members of the public included the following:

- Vince Moffit stated that any support for personal care services in the home will reduce the spread of COVID-19 to the elderly; and
- personal care workers need to be compensated for rate increases.

Home-Based Health Care in the Context of COVID-19 (2:08 p.m.)

Meggin Lorino, executive director, New Mexico Association for Home and Hospice Care; Adrienne Smith, president and chief executive officer, New Mexico Caregivers Coalition; and Ellen Pinnes, J.D., The Disability Coalition, provided a presentation on home-based health care in the context of COVID-19. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=10/21/2020&ItemNumber=3>.

Questions and comments from committee members addressed the following topics:

- that providers are working under tight margins and that adequate reimbursement is important;
- the cost across the state for a day of long-term care;
- what rates are included in the operating costs; and
- whether the presenters deal with issues of undocumented workers.

An Update on Delivering Primary Care Services (3:46 p.m.)

John Andazola, M.D., F.A.A.F.P., program director, Southern New Mexico Family Medicine Residency Program, Memorial Medical Center; president, Executive Board of Directors, New Mexico Primary Care Training Consortium; former president, New Mexico

Academy of Family Physicians; Stephanie Benson, M.D., F.A.A.F.P., associate program director, Southern New Mexico Family Medicine Residency Program, Memorial Medical Center; delegate, New Mexico Academy of Family Physicians, Congress of Delegates; former president, New Mexico Academy of Family Physicians; Jeff Clark, M.D., major general, United States Army (retired); and Rick Madden, M.D., chair, New Mexico Academy of Family Physicians, Legislative Affairs Committee, provided an update on delivering primary care services in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/LHHS%20102120%20Item%204%20Effects%20of%20Covid-19%20on%20Primary%20Care%20in%20New%20Mexico-Primary%20Care%20Council%20Bill.pdf>.

Questions and comments from committee members addressed the following topics:

- whether the presented legislation will be offered for committee endorsement;
- whether primary care doctors working for hospitals affects the purpose of the bill;
- that the health care system does not focus on outcomes but utilization, which should change;
- that emergency care overuse does not provide a good measure for outcomes; and
- whether preventive care will be addressed in the presented legislation.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 4:54 p.m.