

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

**September 14-16, 2022  
Student Services and Technology Center, Room 200  
University of New Mexico-Gallup  
705 Gurley Avenue  
Gallup**

The fourth meeting of the Legislative Health and Human Services Committee was called to order by Representative Christine Trujillo, chair, on September 14, 2022 at 8:52 a.m. at the University of New Mexico (UNM)-Gallup in Gallup.

**Present**

Rep. Christine Trujillo, Chair  
Sen. Gerald Ortiz y Pino, Vice Chair  
Rep. Gail Armstrong (9/14, 9/15)  
Rep. Joanne J. Ferrary  
Sen. Martin Hickey (9/15, 9/16)  
Sen. Antoinette Sedillo Lopez  
Rep. Elizabeth "Liz" Thomson

**Absent**

Sen. David M. Gallegos

**Advisory Members**

Rep. Phelps Anderson (9/14, 9/15)  
Rep. Gail Chasey (9/14)  
Rep. D. Wonda Johnson  
Sen. Linda M. Lopez (9/14, 9/15)  
Rep. Roger E. Montoya (9/15, 9/16)  
Sen. Shannon D. Pinto  
Sen. Nancy Rodriguez (9/14)  
Rep. Patricia Roybal Caballero (9/14, 9/15)  
Sen. Elizabeth "Liz" Stefanics (9/14, 9/15)

Rep. Karen C. Bash  
Rep. Rachel A. Black  
Rep. Micaela Lara Cadena  
Reb. Rebecca Dow  
Sen. Katy M. Duhigg  
Rep. Kelly K. Fajardo  
Rep. Miguel P. Garcia  
Sen. Siah Correa Hemphill  
Rep. Tara L. Lujan  
Rep. Marian Matthews  
Sen. Gregg Schmedes  
Sen. Bill Tallman

**Guest Legislators**

Rep. Christine Chandler (9/14, 9/15)  
Sen. George K. Munoz (9/14, 9/15)

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

**Staff**

Andrea Lazarow, Bill Drafter, Legislative Council Service (LCS)  
Zander Dawson, Staff Attorney, LCS  
Cristina Vasquez, Staff Attorney, LCS  
Grace Balderamos, Proofreader, LCS  
Hexuan Li, Intern, 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](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, September 14****Welcome and Introductions (8:52 a.m.)**

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

**Welcome to UNM-Gallup (9:00 a.m.)**

Sabrina Ezzell, interim chancellor, UNM-Gallup, welcomed the committee to UNM-Gallup.

**The New Mexico Workforce Analysis Committee Report (9:03 a.m.)**

Richard Larson, M.D., Ph.D., vice president of research, UNM Health Sciences Center (HSC), discussed the forthcoming New Mexico Health Care Workforce Committee annual report on licensed health care professionals and issues recommended for legislation.

**Building Health Care Systems (9:50 a.m.)**

Douglas Ziedonis, M.D., executive vice president, UNM HSC, and chief executive officer (CEO), UNM Health System, spoke about ways to strengthen and support health care systems, how to increase access to health care through workforce expansion and workforce retention strategies. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/LHHS%20091422%20Item%202%20Health%20Care%20Systems.pdf>.

### **Licensing Health Care Providers (10:49 a.m.)**

Sheena Ferguson, executive director, Board of Nursing; Sondra Frank, J.D., executive director, New Mexico Medical Board; Cheranne McCracken, executive director, Board of Pharmacy; Linda Trujillo, superintendent, Regulation and Licensing Department; Felicia Norvell, chief division counsel, Regulation and Licensing Department; and Arthur Culpepper, Health Licensing Bureau Chief, Regulation and Licensing Department, provided information on credentialing and licensing for health care providers in New Mexico and recommended that New Mexico join the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact as a way to streamline state medical board processes. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=9/14/2022&ItemNumber=3>.

### **Price Models for Innovative Therapies (11:56 a.m.)**

Ty Trujillo, lobbyist, presented on the insurance reimbursement policy issues challenging patient access to new medical therapies and prospective payment models that could be implemented in New Mexico. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/LHHS%20091422%20Item%204%20BIO.pdf>.

### **Coverage Issues (1:01 p.m.)**

Russell Toal, superintendent of insurance, Office of Superintendent of Insurance (OSI), discussed the OSI's activities regarding coverage and affordability of health insurance in New Mexico. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/LHHS%20091422%20Item%205%20OSI.pdf>.

### **Update: BeWell New Mexico and New Mexico Medical Insurance Pool (1:30 p.m.)**

Brent Earnest, chief operating officer, New Mexico Health Insurance Exchange; Maureen Manring, director of communication and outreach, BeWellnm, New Mexico Health Insurance Exchange; and Mr. Toal, board member, New Mexico Medical Insurance Pool, provided information on the upcoming New Mexico Health Insurance Exchange open enrollment and updates on the New Mexico Medical Insurance Pool. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=9/14/2022&ItemNumber=6>.

### **Nursing Workforce Issues (2:09 p.m.)**

Pamela K. Blackwell, J.D., director of government relations and communications, New Mexico Hospital Association (NMHA); Tim Johnsen, R.N., M.B.A., F.A.C.H.E., senior vice president and chief operating officer, Presbyterian Healthcare Services; R. Jonathan Lumibao, M.S.N., R.N., director, Nursing Program, UNM-Gallup; and Linda Siegle, lobbyist for nursing

organizations, spoke on nursing workforce shortages and strategies to address this problem. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=9/14/2022&ItemNumber=7>.

**Brainstorming Session (2:55 p.m.)**

Representative Trujillo led the committee in a brainstorming session focused on the shortage of health care providers and how to better provide access to the New Mexico Health Insurance Exchange for people in the state who are having trouble getting health insurance coverage.

**Recess**

The meeting recessed at 4:00 p.m.

**Thursday, September 15**

**Reconvene**

The meeting reconvened at 8:58 a.m.

**Growing Our Own Behavioral Health Care Providers (8:59 a.m.)**

Debra Martinez, behavioral health investment zone manager, City of Gallup; Art Romero, M.A., L.P.C.C., M.A.C., clinical supervisor; and Nicole Lujan, behavioral health coordinator, City of Gallup, discussed the City of Gallup's "Grow Our Own" pilot project designed to address the need for behavioral and mental health professionals in the Gallup area. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=9/14/2022&ItemNumber=8>.

**Update: Rehoboth McKinley Christian Hospital (9:18 a.m.)**

Robert Whitaker, CEO, Rehoboth McKinley Christian Hospital (RMCH), gave updates on the RMCH and concerns about the rising costs of health care and stagnant insurance reimbursement rates.

**Public Comment (9:36 a.m.)**

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

**Local Substance Use Disorder Recovery Resources (9:50 a.m.)**

Kevin Foley, Ph.D., executive director, Na'Nizhoozhi Center, Inc.; Barry Ore, program director, Four Corners Detox Recovery Center; and Sherman Snyder, chief financial officer, Santa Fe Recovery Center, provided an overview of their programs and discussed next steps and

plans for expansion in building a continuum of care for individuals with substance use disorders. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=9/14/2022&ItemNumber=10>.

**Health Councils (10:57 a.m.)**

Gerilyn Antonio, tribal liaison, New Mexico Alliance of Health Councils (NMAHC); Susan Wilger, interim executive director, NMAHC; Teresa Meehan, Ph.D., executive director, Health and Human Services Division, Pueblo of Acoma; and Christopher Hudson, coordinator, McKinley Community Health Alliance, presented on the reach their programming has had on New Mexico communities and how they plan to continue building access to health care services. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=9/14/2022&ItemNumber=11>.

**Update: The Health Security Plan Design (11:30 a.m.)**

Mary Feldblum, Ph.D., executive director, Health Security for New Mexicans Campaign, spoke on issues around health care access, the rising cost of health care services and the proposed Health Security Act. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=9/14/2022&ItemNumber=12>.

**Centering Patients and Providers in the Health Care Provider Shortage (12:00 noon)**

Kathy Love, attorney, McGinn, Montoya, Love and Curry, LLC, discussed ways to alleviate provider shortages. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/LHHS%20091422%20Item%2013%20Centering%20Patients%20and%20Providers.pdf>.

**Health Care Coverage in New Mexico: Filling in the Federal Affordable Care Act's Gaps (1:05 p.m.)**

Juliana Hernandez, organizer, Strong Families New Mexico; Lan Sena, policy director, Center for Civic Policy; and Alex Williams, health care policy advocate, New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty, presented on the Health Care Affordability Fund and how it has strengthened health care access in New Mexico by making existing insurance options more affordable and expanding coverage. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/LHHS%20091422%20Item%2014%20Filling%20Gaps.pdf>.

### **How the Interagency Benefits Advisory Committee (IBAC) Agencies Purchase Health Care Services (1:27 p.m.)**

Randall Cherry, general counsel and acting director, Risk Management Division, General Services Department; Neil Kueffer, executive director, Retiree Health Care Authority; and Patrick Sandoval, interim executive director, Public School Insurance Authority, provided information on the IBAC agencies' request for proposals process and how the IBAC selects health care services for purchase. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/LHHS%20091422%20Item%2015%20IBAC.pdf>.

### **Financial Incentives for Health Care Providers (2:18 p.m.)**

Stephanie Rodriguez, secretary, Higher Education Department (HED), and Harrison Rommel, Ph.D., director, Institutional Finance and Financial Aid, HED, discussed how the Opportunity Scholarship program, state funding for nurse expansion and faculty endowments and the Health Professional Loan Repayment Program are working to address the shortage of health care providers in New Mexico through financial incentives. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=9/14/2022&ItemNumber=16>.

### **Addressing Physician Shortages (2:31 p.m.)**

Carrie Robin Brunder, Government Affairs, New Mexico Medical Society; Stacey Dimitt, M.D., obstetrician, family practice, Cibola Family Health Center; and Angelina Villas-Adams, M.D., Southwest Gastroenterology, presented on the challenges of recruitment and retention of physicians in New Mexico and their proposed solutions. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/LHHS%20091422%20Item%2017%20Addressing%20Physician%20Shortages.pdf>.

### **Hospital Finance (3:05 p.m.)**

Troy Clark, president and CEO, NMHA, and Frank Corcoran, R.N., CEO, Sierra Vista Hospital, gave an update on the status of hospital finance in New Mexico, growing concerns around workforce retention and recruitment and cuts to Medicaid provider rates. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/LHHS%20091422%20Item%2018%20Hospital%20Finance.pdf>.

### **Approval of Minutes (3:47 p.m.)**

Upon a motion made and duly seconded, and without any objections, the committee approved the minutes of the August 10-12, 2022 meeting.

**Recess**

The meeting recessed at 4:28 p.m.

**Friday, September 16****Reconvene**

The meeting reconvened at 9:09 a.m.

**Public Comment (9:10 a.m.)**

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

**Working Session (9:24 a.m.)**

The committee discussed issues they would like to address through legislation and research.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 11:47 a.m.