

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

July 31-August 2, 2024
Eastern New Mexico University
Campus Union Building Ballroom
1500 South Avenue K
Portales

The fourth meeting of the Legislative Health and Human Services Committee was called to order by Senator Gerald Ortiz y Pino, chair, on Wednesday, July 31, 2024, at 9:10 a.m. in the Campus Union Building Ballroom at Eastern New Mexico University (ENMU) in Portales.

Present

Sen. Gerald Ortiz y Pino, Chair
Rep. Elizabeth "Liz" Thomson, Vice Chair
Rep. Eleanor Chávez
Sen. Martin Hickey (7/31, 8/1)

Absent

Sen. David M. Gallegos
Rep. Pamela Herndon
Rep. Jenifer Jones
Sen. Antoinette Sedillo Lopez

Advisory Members

Rep. Kathleen Cates
Rep. Gail Chasey (7/31, 8/1)
Sen. Linda M. López (8/1, 8/2)
Rep. Alan T. Martinez (8/1, 8/2)
Rep. Harlan Vincent

Rep. John Block
Sen. Katy M. Duhigg
Rep. Joanne J. Ferrary
Rep. Miguel P. García
Sen. Siah Correa Hemphill
Rep. Tara Jaramillo
Rep. D. Wonda Johnson
Rep. Stefani Lord
Rep. Tara L. Lujan
Rep. Cristina Parajón
Sen. Shannon D. Pinto
Sen. Harold Pope
Sen. Nancy Rodriguez
Rep. Patricia Roybal Caballero
Sen. Gregg Schmedes
Sen. Elizabeth "Liz" Stefanics
Rep. Reena Szczepanski
Sen. Bill Tallman

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

Staff

Zander Dawson, Staff Attorney, Legislative Council Service (LCS)
Andrea Lazarow, Bill Drafter, LCS
Grace Balderamos, Staff, LCS

Guests

The guest list is 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, under the "Webcast" tab. The presentations made and committee discussions for agenda items can be found on the recorded webcast for this meeting.

Wednesday, July 31**Welcome and Introductions (9:10 a.m.)**

Senator Ortiz y Pino welcomed everyone to the meeting. Committee members and staff introduced themselves.

Welcome to ENMU (9:11 a.m.)

James Johnston, Ph.D., system chancellor and president, ENMU, welcomed the committee to ENMU. He noted that student enrollment and retention have increased and that more students are living on campus. Jamie Laurenz, Ph.D., provost and vice president, Academic Affairs, ENMU, discussed the baccalaureate and master's degrees offered by ENMU's Department of Health and Human Services. Adrienne Bratcher, associate professor and department chair, Communicative Disorders, ENMU, discussed the university's nursing and communicative disorders programs. She provided information about ENMU's Speech and Hearing Rehabilitation Outreach Center, which is a teaching clinic on campus for undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in the communicative disorders program. Melissa Moyer, Ph.D., L.C.S.W., director, Master of Social Work Program, and assistant professor, ENMU, provided an overview of the university's social work programs, including the academic coursework and partnerships with AmeriCorps and the Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD). The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=7/31/2024&ItemNumber=1>.

Update: Providing Behavioral Health Care in Southern New Mexico (10:39 a.m.)

Philip Huston, executive director, Carlsbad Lifehouse, discussed the behavioral health care climate in southern New Mexico, including funding, understaffing and long wait lists for

treatment. He described services offered by Carlsbad Lifehouse and how they are funded. Carlsbad Lifehouse offers medically-assisted detox, residential treatment, support for sober living, intensive outpatient treatment and counseling for adults with substance use disorder. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=7/31/2024&ItemNumber=2>.

Public Comment (11:56 a.m.)

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

Update: Behavioral Health Services Division (1:05 p.m.)

Nick Boukas, director, Behavioral Health Services Division, Health Care Authority (HCA), discussed behavioral health care funding, the statewide expansion of medication-assisted treatment (MAT) and updates on the Behavioral Health Services Division. The Behavioral Health Services Division has trained hundreds of certified peer support workers since 2019 to help people with substance use disorders and mental health problems. Mr. Boukas highlighted the success of the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline since it was launched two years ago. Alanna Dancis, medical director, Medical Assistance Division, HCA, reviewed the Medicaid 1115 demonstration waiver's implementation time line and new and upcoming services and programs covered by the waiver. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=7/31/2024&ItemNumber=3>.

Kevin S. Settlement Compliance Update and Services for Children in Custody (3:43 p.m.)

Dana Flannery, director, Medicaid Program, HCA, discussed care coordination by the HCA and the CYFD for children in state custody. She reviewed the procedures for wellness visits and resources available to staff and children in state custody. She noted that New Mexico has been selected to participate in two learning collaboratives administered by the National Academy for State Health Policy. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=7/31/2024&ItemNumber=4>.

Recess

The meeting recessed at 4:31 p.m.

Thursday, August 1

Reconvene

The meeting reconvened at 9:12 a.m.

Center for Excellence in Social Work 2024 Social Workers of New Mexico Survey Report (9:13 a.m.)

Anna Nelson, Ph.D., L.C.S.W., principal investigator and director, Center for Excellence in Social Work, Facundo Valdez School of Social Work (FVSSW), New Mexico Highlands University (NMHU); Sreyashi Chakravarty, Ph.D., co-investigator and assistant professor, FVSSW, NMHU; and Mónica Rae Otero, P-L.M.S.W., researcher and special projects coordinator, Center for Excellence in Social Work, FVSSW, NMHU, presented the findings of a survey that was recently conducted among social workers in all counties of New Mexico by the Center of Excellence in Social Work at the FVSSW at NMHU. The survey evaluated the climate and morale of the state's social work workforce. Barriers to participants' professional well-being included experiencing burnout due to the workforce shortage and pay inequity. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=7/31/2024&ItemNumber=5>.

MAT in Correctional Facilities (10:18 a.m.)

Patrick Allen, secretary, Department of Health (DOH), described the DOH's MAT expansion objectives and budget. The department's objectives include providing direct services at public health offices, increasing access to naloxone and expanding MAT availability to pregnant women and people who have overdosed on opiates. Alisha Tafoya Lucero, secretary, Corrections Department, discussed the expansion of MAT in correctional facilities throughout the state. Grace Philips, risk management director, New Mexico Association of Counties, discussed how county correctional facilities have increased MAT, presented MAT-related data in New Mexico counties and explained how MAT services are funded. Kris Paulus, L.C.S.W., MAT program manager, Roosevelt County Detention Center, described the Roosevelt County Detention Center's experiences with providing MAT since it began offering MAT services in 2021. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=7/31/2024&ItemNumber=6>.

Approval of Minutes (12:17 p.m.)

Upon a motion made and duly seconded, and without any objections, the committee approved the minutes of the July 1-3, 2024 meeting.

Public Comment (12:18 p.m.)

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

Falling Colors (1:25 p.m.)

Reba Serafin, stakeholder and provider relations specialist, Falling Colors; Jorie Koster-Hale, chief executive officer, Falling Colors; Tim Harville, senior project manager, Falling Colors; and Sam Wolf, chief operating officer and general counsel, Falling Colors, provided a presentation about Falling Colors, which is a public benefit corporation that serves as the Interagency Behavioral Health Purchasing Collaborative's administrative services organization.

Some of Falling Colors' duties include contracting with behavioral health care providers, administering more than 60 behavioral health programs in the state, compiling and reporting behavioral health data and providing behavioral health administrative management. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=7/31/2024&ItemNumber=7>.

Metrics that Matter (3:07 p.m.)

Maggie McCowen, M.B.A., L.I.S.W., Behavioral Health Providers Association of New Mexico, and Pamela Stanley, L.P.C.C., A.C.T., associate principal, Health Management Associates, discussed a data collection project funded by the Behavioral Health Services Division to identify and evaluate metrics that are specific to behavioral health care with the goal of establishing an alternative behavioral health payment model. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=7/31/2024&ItemNumber=8>.

Brainstorming Session (4:06 p.m.)

Senator Ortiz y Pino led the committee in a brainstorming session focused on potential legislation that could address the issues presented to the committee.

Recess

The meeting recessed at 4:34 p.m.

Friday, August 2

Reconvene

The meeting reconvened at 9:13 a.m.

Programs for Families with Children (9:14 a.m.)

Sarah Dinces, program evaluator, Legislative Finance Committee (LFC), and Kelly Klundt, principal analyst, LFC, provided an evaluation and funding recap of income support, child care assistance and home visiting programs. Their evaluation showed that although funding for home visiting has increased in recent years, enrollment has decreased, and most families who participate do not complete the program. New Mexico has lower uptake for some income support programs compared to the rest of the nation, and some barriers to enrollment include lack of awareness of programs, belief of ineligibility and fear of losing other forms of assistance. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=7/31/2024&ItemNumber=9>.

Abuse and Neglect: Prevention and Early Intervention (10:39 a.m.)

Nathan Eckberg, senior fiscal analyst, LFC, and Rachel Mercer Garcia, principal analyst, LFC, discussed child maltreatment prevention and intervention, foster care trends, evidence-based home visiting programs that could prevent maltreatment and repeat maltreatment and different home-visiting models targeted toward various populations. They reviewed the implementation of the federal Family First Prevention Services Act and the federal Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2016 around the country and in New Mexico. Kathey Phoenix-Doyle, deputy secretary, Family Services Division, CYFD, answered questions about how the CYFD handles child maltreatment. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=7/31/2024&ItemNumber=10>.

Public Comment (12:28 p.m.)

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

Adjournment

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 12:34 p.m.