

**MINUTES
of the
FOURTH MEETING
of the
INDIAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**October 2, 2024
Zia Day School
1000 Borrego Canyon Road
Pueblo of Zia**

**October 3-4, 2024
Santa Ana Star Casino
54 Jemez Canyon Dam Road
Pueblo of Santa Ana**

The fourth meeting of the Indian Affairs Committee was called to order by Representative D. Wonda Johnson, chair, on Wednesday, October 2, 2024, at 10:19 a.m. at the Zia Day School in the Pueblo of Zia.

Present

Rep. D. Wonda Johnson, Chair
Sen. Shannon D. Pinto, Vice Chair
Rep. Anthony Allison
Rep. John Block
Rep. Charlotte Little
Sen. Linda M. López (10/2, 10/4)
Sen. Nancy Rodriguez
Rep. Patricia Roybal Caballero (10/3)
Sen. Benny Shendo, Jr. (10/2, 10/4)
Rep. Martin R. Zamora (10/2, 10/3)

Advisory Members

Rep. Derrick J. Lente (10/2, 10/3)
Rep. Patricia A. Lundstrom (10/3)
Sen. William P. Soules

Absent

Rep. Eliseo Lee Alcon
Rep. Tara Jaramillo
Sen. Cliff R. Pirtle
Sen. Joshua A. Sanchez

Rep. Gail Chasey
Rep. Harry Garcia
Sen. Brenda G. McKenna
Sen. Bill B. O'Neill
Sen. Michael Padilla
Sen. William E. Sharer
Rep. Elizabeth "Liz" Thomson

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

Staff

Nicole Waguespack, Researcher, Legislative Council Service (LCS)
Paul Estok, Staff Attorney, LCS
Sheila Keleher, Researcher, LCS

Guests

The guest list 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, October 2 — Pueblo of Zia

Welcome and Introductions (10:19 a.m.)

Representative Johnson welcomed everyone, and members of the committee, staff and audience introduced themselves.

Welcome and Status Update from the Pueblo of Zia (10:31 a.m.)

Ben Shije, governor, Pueblo of Zia, and Delbert Pino, lieutenant governor, Pueblo of Zia, welcomed the committee and presented an overview of the pueblo's vision and cultural values, as well as a brief history of the Zia sun symbol. Glenn Tortalita, assistant tribal administrator, Pueblo of Zia, introduced directors and staff and emphasized the importance of the pueblo's partnership with the committee. Sandra Jeff, director, Community Planning and Development, Pueblo of Zia, provided an update on infrastructure and economic development, along with funding needs.

Pueblo of Zia Tour and Traditional Dances by Zia Day School Students (11:10 a.m.)

The committee members toured the Pueblo of Zia and watched traditional dances performed by students at Zia Day School.

Introduction to Community Based Coordination Solutions (CBCS) and Update on Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA) Pilot Program (1:38 p.m.)

Enrique Enguidanos, chief executive officer (CEO), CBCS, and Crystal Salazar, program manager, CBCS, provided an overview of how CBCS engages with community resource management to work with families who frequently utilize hospital emergency departments. These families must be enrolled in the CARA Pilot Program. CBCS uses a holistic approach to meet the needs of the families it supports, coordinating with multiple sources, including hospital

emergency departments, correctional institutions, behavioral health centers, therapeutic courts, protective services, homeless shelters and federal and state agencies. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=IAC&Date=10/2/2024&ItemNumber=2>.

County and Tribal Health Councils: An Instrumental Function of Public Health in Service of New Mexico (2:28 p.m.)

Valeria Alarcón, executive director, New Mexico Alliance of Health Councils (NMAHC); Heather Maxey, health council and public health specialist, NMAHC; and Gerilyn Antonio, tribal liaison, NMAHC, reviewed the role that tribal and county health councils have in addressing critical health needs at the local level. The panel pointed out the health disparities that exist among Native American populations and the collaborative role that health councils have with the Department of Health in promoting education and intervention strategies to promote health equity across the state. Ms. Alarcón emphasized the importance of investing in health councils, which historically have been underfunded. NMAHC's legislative priorities are to reestablish recurring state funding. Ms. Maxey noted that the highest health priorities are within the field of behavioral health. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=IAC&Date=10/2/2024&ItemNumber=3>.

Update from Sandoval County (3:19 p.m.)

John Butrick, deputy county attorney and supervisor, Tribal Liaison Program, Sandoval County; Evelyn Sandoval, Navajo and Jicarilla Apache tribal liaison, Sandoval County; Sheila Herrera, Keres tribal liaison, Sandoval County; and Tamara Sandia, Towa tribal liaison, Sandoval County, gave an overview of the Tribal Liaison Program, which collaborates with pueblo and tribal leaders to provide a variety of services, including voting services, veterans', senior and youth services, legal assistance and public safety. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=IAC&Date=10/2/2024&ItemNumber=4>.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Approval of Minutes (3:56 p.m.)

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, and without any objections, the committee approved the minutes of the September 4-6, 2024 meeting.

Recess

The meeting recessed at 3:59 p.m.

Thursday, October 3 — Pueblo of Santa Ana

Reconvene

The meeting reconvened at 10:04 a.m.

Welcome and Status Update from the Pueblo of Santa Ana (10:05 a.m.)

Myron Armijo, governor, Pueblo of Santa Ana, and Kevin Montoya, lieutenant governor, Pueblo of Santa Ana, welcomed the committee and discussed current projects and legislative priorities.

Hunger in New Mexico's Indigenous Communities (10:48 a.m.)

Jill Dixon, executive director, The Food Depot, and Katy Anderson, vice president, Strategy, Partnerships and Advocacy, Roadrunner Food Bank, addressed food insecurities in New Mexico, noting that Native Americans have some of the highest rates of food insecurities. Ms. Dixon and Ms. Anderson discussed some of the challenges for native communities, including poverty, living in rural locations, lack of transportation, low-access food areas and disruptions to traditional food systems. In addition, they spoke about the federal Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations, partnerships with food banks and the importance of food sovereignty. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=IAC&Date=10/2/2024&ItemNumber=6>.

Canoncito Band of Navajos Health Center, Inc. (CBNHC) — To'hajiilee Chapter's Community Health Provider (12:34 p.m.)

Derrick Watchman, interim CEO, CBNHC, and Kimberley Bruce, chair, Board of Directors, CBNHC, discussed CBNHC's work to rebuild a culture of health through collaboration with tribal governments and young people. They addressed current community health disparities, including access to clean water and food insecurity. CBNHC's focus is to create pathways to health equity, and its highest legislative priority is to establish funding for an administrative and wellness center. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=IAC&Date=10/2/2024&ItemNumber=7>.

An Update from the Gaming Control Board (GCB) (1:24 p.m.)

Van Billops, C.P.A., commissioner, Interim State Gaming Representative, GCB; Gilbert Romero, responsible gaming coordinator, GCB; Tammy Archuleta, compliance officer, GCB; Natalia Arn, tribal auditor, GCB; Titrisa Nez, audit manager, GCB; and Rainer Kamplain, audit manager, GCB, presented an update on tribal gaming, including revenue sharing with the state, regulatory fees, compulsive gambling and the Tribal-State Gaming Compact. A committee member suggested that the committee take action at the next GCB annual meeting to request that the revenue sharing amount to the state be increased to help with behavioral health needs. The

committee agreed to write a letter to Charles Sallee, director, Legislative Finance Committee, to research possible funding sources. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=IAC&Date=10/2/2024&ItemNumber=8>.

Aquifer Storage and Recovery: Perspective from the Utton Transboundary Resources Center (UTRC) (2:38 p.m.)

Adrian Oglesby, director, UTRC, and Katherine "Rin" Tara, staff attorney and water policy and governance analyst, UTRC, reviewed the existing legislation for aquifer storage and recovery, noting the limitations of the Ground Water Storage and Recovery Act enacted in 1999. Proposed legislative changes include allowing nongovernmental entities to create Ground Water Storage and Recovery Act projects, allowing underground storage of permitted water rights and reducing application fees. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=IAC&Date=10/2/2024&ItemNumber=9>.

Public Comment (3:16 p.m.)

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

Recess

The meeting recessed at 3:23 p.m.

Friday, October 4 — Pueblo of Santa Ana

Reconvene

The meeting reconvened at 9:50 a.m.

Tribal Ready (TR): Empowering Tribal Digital and Data Sovereignty (9:51 a.m.)

Joe Valandra, CEO and chairman, TR; Jason Coochwytewa, business development manager, TR; and Tom Valandra, chief of staff, TR, presented an overview of TR, which assists tribal communities in building and operating affordable and sustainable broadband networks, with the overall goal of advancing tribal sovereignty. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=IAC&Date=10/2/2024&ItemNumber=10>.

Update from the Health Care Authority (HCA) (10:27 a.m.)

Kyra Ochoa, deputy secretary, HCA; Theresa Belanger, Medicaid liaison, HCA; and Shelly Begay, Native American liaison, HCA, discussed the HCA's goals to strengthen relationships with tribal communities. Topics discussed included Medicaid expansion in tribal

communities, the Native American Technical Advisory Committee and the Rural Health Care Delivery Fund. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=IAC&Date=10/2/2024&ItemNumber=11>.

Public Comment (11:59 a.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 12:13 p.m.