

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

August 26-28, 2024
New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology
Raul and Shari Deju University House
1001 Lopezville Road
Socorro

The fifth meeting of the Legislative Health and Human Services Committee was called to order by Senator Gerald Ortiz y Pino, chair, on Monday, August 26, 2024, at 9:32 a.m. at the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology in Socorro.

Present

Sen. Gerald Ortiz y Pino, Chair
Rep. Elizabeth "Liz" Thomson, Vice Chair
Rep. Eleanor Chávez
Rep. Pamelya Herndon
Sen. Martin Hickey
Rep. Jenifer Jones (8/26)
Sen. Antoinette Sedillo Lopez

Absent

Sen. David M. Gallegos

Advisory Members

Rep. Kathleen Cates (8/26, 8/27)
Rep. Gail Chasey
Rep. Joanne J. Ferrary
Rep. Tara Jaramillo
Rep. D. Wonda Johnson (8/27, 8/28)
Sen. Linda M. López
Rep. Tara L. Lujan (8/27)
Sen. Shannon D. Pinto
Sen. Harold Pope
Sen. Nancy Rodriguez (8/26)
Rep. Patricia Roybal Caballero
Sen. Elizabeth "Liz" Stefanics (8/28)
Sen. Bill Tallman (8/26)
Rep. Harlan Vincent

Rep. John Block
Sen. Katy M. Duhigg
Rep. Miguel P. García
Sen. Siah Correa Hemphill
Rep. Stefani Lord
Rep. Alan T. Martinez
Rep. Cristina Parajón
Sen. Gregg Schmedes
Rep. Reena Szczepanski

Guest Legislator

Rep. Micaela Lara Cadena (8/26)

(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.

Monday, August 26**Welcome and Introductions (9:32 a.m.)**

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

Department of Health (DOH) Homelessness Initiatives (9:40 a.m.)

Patrick M. Allen, secretary, DOH, and Josh Swatek, policy manager, Policy and Communications Division, DOH, discussed the DOH's mobile homelessness demonstration project aimed at improving engagement with homeless people and evaluating homelessness in 19 rural counties throughout the state. Trauma-informed mobile outreach was used in an effort to reduce geographic and transportation barriers, increase equitable access to services, individualize care and reduce stigma and distrust. The project included a survey administered to homeless individuals who reported not utilizing homeless shelters. Reasons for not using homeless shelters included safety concerns, shelters not allowing pets, accessibility issues and previously having negative experiences at homeless shelters. Community partner organizations that participated in the project facilitated outreach and provided housing case management. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=8/26/2024&ItemNumber=1>.

All Payer Claims Database Update (10:58 a.m.)

Secretary Allen; Heidi Krapfl, director, Center for Health Protection, Public Health Division, DOH; and Glidden Martinez, director, Information Technology Services Department, DOH, provided an update on the all payer claims database, which is a database that contains medical, dental and pharmacy claims, provider files and eligibility files to identify health care

trends and promote government and health care transparency. They noted that the database includes a public portal that contains claims data and a statewide map of health care services available. The public portal allows users to compare costs of medical services, medical procedures and health care providers. The DOH hopes to incorporate Medicare claims data into the all payer claims database, expand the database's reporting to include total costs of care and expand the public portal to include Spanish language translation. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=8/26/2024&ItemNumber=2>.

Public Comment (11:50 a.m.)

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

Children's Code Reform Task Force Update (1:15 p.m.)

Cristen Conley, director, Corinne Wolfe Center for Child and Family Justice, and chair, Children's Code Reform Task Force; Tony Ortíz, J.D., staff, Children's Code Reform Task Force; and Leslie Jones, J.D., C.W.L.S., director, Legal Services Division, Office of Family Representation and Advocacy, and member and chair, Improving Responses to Poverty and Substance Misuse Subcommittee, Children's Code Reform Task Force, summarized a report by the Children's Code Reform Task Force that included proposed legislation, public comment and recommendations for the legislature, judicial branch and state agencies and departments for revising the Children's Code. The report included draft amendments to existing statutes regarding poverty, time limitations and access to deadly weapons. Ms. Conley, Mr. Ortíz and Ms. Jones reviewed new proposed legislation about improving responses to poverty and substance misuse, reinstatement of parental rights when appropriate and crossover youth, which refers to youth in foster care who have juvenile justice charges. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=8/26/2024&ItemNumber=3>.

LegiStat: Early Childhood Education and Care Department (ECECD) and Medicaid Home Visiting (2:36 p.m.)

Kelly Klundt, principal analyst, Legislative Finance Committee (LFC), provided a follow-up to LegiStat hearings in 2022 and 2023 about Medicaid-funded home visiting. She reviewed an LFC evaluation from July 2023 of the state's home visiting program implementation and expansion. Elizabeth Groginsky, secretary, ECECD, described the ECECD's outreach efforts to find families to participate in home visiting since there are not enough New Mexico families enrolled in Medicaid-funded home visiting for the state to receive federal funding for the program. They discussed quality initiatives that could improve outreach, recruitment and enrollment in Medicaid-funded home visiting. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=8/26/2024&ItemNumber=4>.

The Child Welfare Workforce and Leveraging Federal Funds (3:58 p.m.)

Rachel Mercer Gacria, principal analyst, LFC, discussed trends in New Mexico's child welfare workforce and training for the Title IV-E stipend program pursuant to Title IV-E of the federal Social Security Act. She discussed the high turnover rates of child protective services workers, citing exit surveys administered by the Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD) that found that reasons former employees left the department included feeling unsupported, being underpaid and having too large of a case backlog. She noted that approximately seven percent of CYFD protective services employees have social work degrees. Dr. Mercer Garcia discussed the Title IV-E stipend programs in New Mexico universities and how New Mexico's program compares to others around the country. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=8/26/2024&ItemNumber=5>.

Public Comment (4:54 p.m.)

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

Recess

The meeting recessed at 5:02 p.m.

Tuesday, August 27

Reconvene

The meeting reconvened at 9:43 a.m.

Cuidando Los Niños (9:44 a.m.)

Trina Jellison, chief executive officer (CEO), Cuidando Los Niños; Alice Brousseau, president, Board of Directors, Cuidando Los Niños; and Kelcy Flanagan, vice president, Board of Directors, Cuidando Los Niños, provided information about Cuidando Los Niños, a nonprofit organization in Albuquerque that provides trauma-informed support services to homeless families. Cuidando Los Niños offers education programs, supportive housing, workforce development, nutrition services, advocacy and transportation services. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=8/26/2024&ItemNumber=6>.

Community Based Coordination Solutions (CBCS) (10:34 a.m.)

Enrique Enguidanos, M.D., F.A.C.E.P., M.B.A., CEO and founder, CBCS, gave a presentation on CBCS, which is an organization that operates in several states and contracts with health care systems, health care foundations, insurers and managed care organizations to care for patients with both complex medical conditions and social circumstances such as being homeless, having substance use disorders or having behavioral health problems. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=8/26/2024&ItemNumber=7>.

Public Comment (11:47 a.m.)

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

Project ECHO Updates (12:48 p.m.)

Sanjeev Arora, M.D., M.A.C.P., F.A.C.G., founder and executive director, Project ECHO, and regents professor, University of New Mexico (UNM) School of Medicine (SOM); Karla Thornton, M.D., M.P.H., senior associate director, Project ECHO, and professor, Division of Infectious Diseases, UNM SOM; Matthew Bouchonville, M.D., C.D.E., associate director, Project ECHO, and associate professor, Division of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism, UNM SOM; and Haven Scogin, deputy director, Reentry Division, Corrections Department, gave a presentation about the growth of Project ECHO. Project ECHO now has 65 active health care programs and 26 active education programs, and by June 2025, there will be 12 more health care programs and six more education programs. They provided information about Project ECHO's new initiatives for treatment and management of type two diabetes, prediabetes, hepatitis C, syphilis and COVID-19. Project ECHO and the Corrections Department administer the New Mexico Peer Education Project to address prisoner health as a community health issue. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=8/26/2024&ItemNumber=8>.

Approval of Minutes (2:42 p.m.)

Upon a motion made and without any objections, the committee approved the minutes of the July 31-August 2, 2024 meeting.

Federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Enrollment Barriers and Federal Funding Opportunities (2:45 p.m.)

Cody Jeff, public benefits attorney, New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty; Shannon Hudson, SNAP and public benefits outreach manager, Roadrunner Food Bank; and Jason Riggs, director, Advocacy and Public Policy, Roadrunner Food Bank, discussed food insecurity in New Mexico. They explained how SNAP is funded and described the SNAP Outreach Program, a federal SNAP program that reaches out to people who do not participate in SNAP but may be eligible for SNAP. They provided information about the Roadrunner Food Bank. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=8/26/2024&ItemNumber=9>.

Recess

The meeting recessed at 3:54 p.m.

Wednesday, August 28**Reconvene**

The meeting reconvened at 9:22 a.m.

Primary Care Association Update (9:25 a.m.)

Yvette Ramirez Ammerman, CEO, New Mexico Primary Care Association, discussed challenges faced by primary care providers, such as employee retention, increased operational costs and difficulty recruiting clinicians to rural health care centers. She noted that community health centers serve more than 60 percent of New Mexicans living beneath 100 percent of the federal poverty level. She explained how community health centers become federally qualified health centers. There are 16 private, nonprofit federally qualified health center organizations in the state, and they serve 32 counties. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=8/26/2024&ItemNumber=10>.

Health Care Authority (HCA) Developmental Disabilities Waiver (DD Waiver) Update (10:55 a.m.)

Jennifer Rodriguez, director, Developmental Disabilities Division, HCA, and Kathy Slater-Huff, deputy secretary, HCA, provided a presentation about the DD Waiver. They explained the HCA's strategies to reduce the waiver wait list and increase the waiver provider capacity. They described the waiver's rate increases, costs and sustainability. Dan Lanari, division director, Division of Health Improvement, DOH, explained the DD Waiver investigation process. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=8/26/2024&ItemNumber=11>.

Public Comment (1:11 p.m.)

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

Brainstorming Session (1:40 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.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:28 p.m.