

**2021 APPROVED  
WORK PLAN AND MEETING SCHEDULE  
for the  
LEGISLATIVE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE**

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**Legislative Health and Human Services Committee (LHHS)**

The LHHS is a permanent joint committee of the legislature created pursuant to Section 2-13-1 NMSA 1978 and is responsible for studying the programs, agencies, policies and needs relating to health and human services, in addition to programs and services for children, families and the aging population. Because the Behavioral Health Subcommittee and the Disabilities Concerns Subcommittee were not created for the 2021 interim, the LHHS will hear presentations on subjects that would otherwise be covered in the course of the work of those subcommittees. Additionally, the committee will hold two joint meetings: one with the Indian Affairs Committee and one with the Courts, Corrections and Justice Committee to discuss issues of mutual concern.

**Work Plan**

The topics that the LHHS will discuss during the 2021 interim include the following.

Agency Updates

The LHHS will begin the interim by inviting the secretaries of the Department of Health (DOH), the Human Services Department (HSD), the Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD), the Aging and Long-Term Services Department (ALTSD) and the Early Childhood Education and Care Department (ECECD), as well as the executive vice president of the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center (UNMHSC), to present updates relating to the

delivery of services, particularly challenges and innovations precipitated by the COVID-19 pandemic, and to hear budget and legislative priorities.

Additionally, the committee will invite representatives from the Public Education Department to discuss the department's plans and policies for safe school reopenings and representatives of school-based health centers to discuss their role in protecting public health.

#### Aging and Long-Term Care Services

The LHHS will revisit concerns about New Mexico's long-term care facilities, raised in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, the committee will hear testimony from the ALTSD's long-term care ombuds concerning the well-being of long-term care facility residents.

#### Behavioral Health

The LHHS will address the demand for and availability of behavioral health services and new initiatives, including implementation of the proposed 988 National Suicide Prevention Lifeline and the operation of crisis triage centers. Additionally, the LHHS will hear testimony regarding services for substance use disorders, including the provision of medication-assisted treatment services in correctional facilities.

#### Children and Families

In addition to hearing updates from the ECECD and the CYFD, the LHHS will hear presentations about issues pertaining to child well-being, including infant and maternal mortality prevention, perinatal care and reforms to the foster care system.

#### Disabilities

The LHHS will examine changes to guardianship oversight and explore supported decision making. The committee will invite the DOH to report on the status of various Medicaid waivers for individuals with disabilities. The committee also will address the demand for and services available for people living with autism, as well as those with traumatic brain injury; employment issues for people with developmental disabilities; and techniques for police de-escalation when interacting with people with disabilities or behavioral health issues.

#### Health Care Finance

The LHHS will call on leadership within the health care industry to provide updates regarding the ongoing financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The committee also will hear testimony regarding global hospital budgets.

#### Health Care Workforce

The LHHS will hear the UNMHSC's annual workforce report. The LHHS also will address initiatives for training physicians and other providers to serve in rural and underserved parts of the state as well as the expansion of the role of primary care. Another topic that the committee will examine is the various forms of home health care.

### Human Services

The LHHS will assess the impact of COVID-19 on programs that provide services to eligible low-income individuals and families, including income support and food assistance. Other topics that the committee will examine include: combating human trafficking; sexual assault survivor services; fighting food insecurity; eviction prevention; and housing the homeless.

### Insurance

In the context of concerns about New Mexico residents without health care coverage, the LHHS will invite representatives from the Office of Superintendent of Insurance, beWellnm and the New Mexico Medical Insurance Pool to report on the availability and cost of coverage, network adequacy and carrier practices. The committee also will hear reports on newly passed legislation regarding consumer protection from medical debt, the health insurance premium surtax and amendments to the Medical Malpractice Act.

### Licensing

The LHHS will invite the Regulation and Licensing Department (RLD) to testify twice: first, to address issues pertaining to streamlining the professional licensing process to make health care more accessible, and second, to address the RLD's oversight of recreational cannabis use, in particular, its impact on the medical cannabis program.

### Medicaid

The LHHS will examine different aspects of New Mexico's Medicaid program, including access to care, long-term care waiting lists, provider networks and reimbursement rates. In addition, the committee will hear testimony about initiatives developed by the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services in response to the COVID-19 pandemic that allow state programs greater administrative flexibility in delivering services.

### Prescription Drug Pricing

The LHHS will hear a presentation from the National Conference of State Legislatures regarding prescription drug pricing and policy initiatives from sister states to control drug costs. The committee also will provide an opportunity for representatives of consumers and the pharmaceutical industry to provide their perspectives on this issue.

### Previously Introduced Bills

The committee will hear testimony from sponsors who plan to reintroduce bills that were not signed into law.

### Task Force Reporting

The committee will receive statutorily required and legislatively requested reports from various working groups and task forces. Task forces that are not required by statute to present a report to the LHHS will be asked to submit the task force's annual report to LHHS staff for email distribution to committee members.

**Legislative Health and Human Services Committee  
2021 Approved Meeting Schedule**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
June 1	Video Conference
July 6-9	Santa Fe
August 5-6	Las Vegas
August 17-19	Albuquerque
September 2-3	Taos
September 14-17	Las Cruces
September 28-October 1	Santa Fe/Albuquerque/Isleta (Joint meeting with the Courts, Corrections and Justice Committee September 28-29; Joint meeting with the Indian Affairs Committee October 1)
October 25-26	Albuquerque
November 22-23	Santa Fe