

**2022 APPROVED  
WORK PLAN AND MEETING SCHEDULE  
for the  
LEGISLATIVE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE**

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Sen. Gerald Ortiz y Pino, Vice Chair  
Rep. Gail Armstrong  
Rep. Joanne J. Ferrary

Sen. David M. Gallegos  
Sen. Martin Hickey  
Sen. Antoinette Sedillo Lopez  
Rep. Elizabeth "Liz" Thomson

**Advisory**

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Sen. Elizabeth "Liz" Stefanics  
Sen. Bill Tallman

**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 2022 interim, the LHHS will address the issues that would otherwise be covered in the course of the work of those subcommittees.

**Work Plan**

At its organizational meeting, the LHHS chairs proposed and the members agreed to try a new approach to the interim. The committee will use the first half of the interim to focus on three issues: behavioral health, prescription drug costs and health care coverage.

During the first day of each meeting, the committee will hear testimony from stakeholders, including national experts, state agencies, advocates and members of the public, pertaining to one of these issues. At the end of the first day of each meeting, the committee chairs will lead a wrap-up session.

The committee will reserve the second day of each meeting to hear brief presentations on additional issues of concern.

On the third day of each meeting, the committee will revisit the issues heard on the first

day by discussing the testimony received, formulating follow-up questions and engaging in brainstorming sessions in an effort to reach a consensus regarding legislative action necessary to address the issues. Once consensus is reached, the chairs will assign follow-up tasks and research questions to committee members and staff, who will work together to craft proposed legislation for discussion at the subsequent meeting. After receiving feedback, staff will work with the committee to revise the proposed legislation in time for the LHHS chairs to present it to the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) when the LFC considers budget priorities in the fall.

### Behavioral Health

At its July meeting, the committee will focus on developing a comprehensive plan to improve the delivery of behavioral health services, including the treatment of substance use disorder. The LHHS will invite the executive vice president for University of New Mexico Health Sciences and chief executive officer of the University of New Mexico Health System to provide an assessment of behavioral health services available statewide and discuss initiatives for building and strengthening behavioral health systems, based on his work in other parts of the country. Additionally, the committee plans to invite representatives from the Interagency Behavioral Health Purchasing Collaborative to outline plans for using funds appropriated during the last regular legislative session. The LHHS also plans to hear the key findings from the behavioral health town hall, facilitated by New Mexico First. The committee will invite representatives from the Medical Assistance Division of the Human Services Department to discuss behavioral health services currently available to Medicaid recipients and whether and how the 1115 Waiver renewal application will impact delivery of those services. Finally, the committee will consider programs that divert mentally ill individuals from the criminal justice system and into comprehensive care, including treatment and case management, and their outcomes.

### Prescription Drug Costs

The LHHS will focus on controlling the cost of prescription drugs at its August meeting. The committee will hear testimony from state agencies regarding the development of a wholesale prescription drug importation plan pursuant to Senate Bill 1 (2020). The committee will revisit proposed legislation that would create a prescription drug affordability board. The LHHS will also invite national experts to provide an overview of state and the federal government approaches to tackling this issue. As in years past, to provide a range of perspectives on the issue, the committee will invite representatives from the pharmaceutical industry and prescription benefit managers as well as consumer advocates to testify.

### Health Care Coverage

The committee's September meeting will focus on extending health care coverage to the uninsured. The LHHS will invite representatives from the Office of Superintendent of Insurance, BeWellnm, the New Mexico Medical Insurance Pool and the Medical Assistance Division of the Human Services Department as well as consumer advocates to testify about initiatives to expand coverage.

### Additional Issues of Concern

At the organizational meeting, committee members expressed interest in addressing additional issues of concern, including the following:

- services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities;
- compensation for direct service providers;
- health care provider shortages;
- improving infant and maternal health outcomes; and
- support for victims of violent crime.

The committee will invite stakeholders to make brief presentations on these issues over the course of the interim by reserving time on the second day of the first three meetings or later in the interim. The chairs will consider additional presentations from stakeholders on other topics as time allows.

### Reporting

The LHHS will receive statutorily required and legislatively requested reports from various working groups and task forces during the second part of the interim. 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.

### Committee Endorsements

At its final meeting, the LHHS will hear brief presentations regarding proposed legislation pertaining to health and human services and requests for endorsement from members and non-members.

**Legislative Health and Human Services Committee  
2022 Approved Meeting Schedule**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
May 24	Santa Fe
July 11-13	Albuquerque
August 10-12	Taos
September 14-16	Gallup
October 5-7	Las Cruces
October 31-November 2	Santa Fe
November 28-30	Santa Fe