

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

October 13, 2020
Video Conference Meeting

The sixth meeting of the Legislative Health and Human Services Committee was called to order by Senator Gerald Ortiz y Pino, chair, on October 13, 2020 at 9:11 a.m. by video and audio conference via an online platform.

Present

Sen. Gerald Ortiz y Pino, Chair
Rep. Deborah A. Armstrong, Vice Chair
Rep. Gail Armstrong
Rep. Joanne J. Ferrary
Rep. D. Wonda Johnson

Absent

Sen. Gregg Fulfer
Sen. Bill B. O'Neill
Sen. Cliff R. Pirtle

Advisory Members

Rep. Karen C. Bash
Rep. Rachel A. Black
Rep. Micaela Lara Cadena
Rep. Rebecca Dow
Rep. Miguel P. Garcia
Sen. Linda M. Lopez
Rep. Tara L. Lujan
Rep. Rodolpho "Rudy" S. Martinez
Sen. Michael Padilla
Sen. Mary Kay Papen
Sen. Nancy Rodriguez
Rep. Patricia Roybal Caballero
Sen. Antoinette Sedillo Lopez
Sen. William P. Soules
Sen. Elizabeth "Liz" Stefanics
Rep. Elizabeth "Liz" Thomson
Rep. Christine Trujillo

Rep. Phelps Anderson
Rep. Zachary J. Cook
Rep. Doreen Y. Gallegos
Sen. Gay G. Kernan
Sen. Mark Moores
Rep. Andrea Romero
Rep. Gregg Schmedes
Sen. Bill Tallman

Guest Legislators

Rep. Willie D. Madrid
Rep. Marian Matthews

Staff

Andrea Lazarow, Legislative Council Service (LCS)
Sabina Gaynor, LCS
Nancy Martinez, LCS

Handouts

Handouts and other written testimony are in the meeting file and posted on the legislature's website.

Tuesday, October 13

Welcome and Introductions (9:11 a.m.)

Senator Ortiz y Pino and Representative Deborah A. Armstrong welcomed committee members and attendees.

Annual Report: State of the Health Care Workforce in New Mexico (9:22 a.m.)

Richard Larson, M.D., Ph.D., executive vice chancellor, University of New Mexico (UNM) Health Sciences Center, made a presentation to the committee on the health care workforce in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/LHHS%20101320%20Item%201%20Workforce.pdf>.

Questions and comments from committee members addressed the following topics:

- why there is such a high number of licenses;
- that rural practitioners need to be included in future fiscal impact reports for legislation;
- why there is difficulty in licensing and recruiting practitioners and whether it is due to pay;
- what loan-for-service programs would entail;
- how the state can train more nurses;
- whether licensure issues can be fixed at the legislative level as opposed to the administrative level;
- whether emergency medical technician (EMT) data for shortages in rural New Mexico include volunteer EMTs;
- licensure reciprocity for behavioral health providers;
- that behavioral health providers taking Medicaid should be recruited;
- that legislators need to ensure that resources are allocated to those who care for rural and frontier communities;
- legislation to expand scholarship and training programs needs to be intentional;
- the difference in credentialing for hospitals and insurers;
- how the Nurse Licensure Compact influences the analysis provided in this presentation;

- support for the full-time-equivalent calculation to be factored in to this analysis; and
- the current percentage of Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement.

Improving Access to Health Care in Rural Areas (10:47 a.m.)

Charlie Alfero, executive advisor, Center for Health Innovation (CHI); John Andazola, M.D., president, Executive Board of Directors, New Mexico Primary Care Training Consortium; Timothy Lopez, director, Office of Primary Care and Rural Health, Department of Health; Nicole Mandall, program specialist, New Mexico Primary Care Training Consortium; and Susan Wilger, executive director, CHI, provided the committee with a presentation on the efforts being made to improve health care access in rural areas. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=10/13/2020&ItemNumber=2>.

Questions and comments from committee members addressed the following topics:

- the rates of income for medical student residents;
- that endorsements from the committee should be drafted before the November 12, 2020 committee meeting;
- whether primary care doctors are being trained on administering behavioral health medications;
- how the panelists recruit high school students to get involved in health care careers; and
- that community service, as integrated in countries such as Mexico and Cuba, should be integrated into state training programs and how the programs used in those countries could be integrated into educational training programs.

Public Comment (1:19 p.m.)

Comments from members of the public included the following:

- Ellen Pinnes, Disability Coalition, reminded committee members not to forget direct care workers and urged committee members to keep public comment open during the upcoming 2021 legislative session; and
- Cat Sanchez, policy associate, Bold Futures, stated that licensed midwives are often forgotten in discussions regarding health care shortages and access to care in rural communities, and she urged committee members to include licensed midwives in legislation.

Approval of Minutes (1:30 p.m.)

Upon a motion by Representative Ferrary, seconded and with no objections, the minutes of the September 4, 2020 meeting were approved.

Addressing the Nursing Shortage in New Mexico (1:31 p.m.)

Jenny Landen, R.N., M.S.N., F.N.P.-B.C., dean of nursing, Santa Fe Community College; Bill McCamley, secretary, Workforce Solutions Department (WSD); Ricky Serna, deputy secretary, WSD; and Deborah Walker, R.N., M.S.N., executive director, New Mexico Nurses Association, provided a presentation to the committee on the nursing shortage in the state. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=LHHS&Date=10/13/2020&ItemNumber=3>.

Questions and comments from committee members addressed the following topics:

- whether the legislature can provide more funding to increase faculty;
- what amount of money could be appropriated by the legislature and how that money could be used to mitigate the nursing shortage;
- that a nursing shortage is costly to the state;
- whether the nursing curriculum includes safe staffing procedures and professionalism training;
- an emphasis that the panelists begin drafting bills that could be endorsed by the committee;
- an explanation of the difficulties in matriculating students from community colleges into Bachelor of Science in Nursing programs;
- that conversations with the nursing workforce and community need to be integrated into discussions on health care; and
- a request for comment on the Skill Up Network: Pathways Acceleration in Technology and Healthcare, known as "SUN PATH", community college career-pathways program legislation.

Building a Pipeline for Rural Physicians and Residencies in Rural New Mexico (3:19 p.m.)

Jerry N. Harrison, Ph.D., executive director, New Mexico Health Resources, Inc.; John Hummer, president, Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine (BCOM); and William Pieratt, D.O., dean, BCOM, provided a presentation to the committee on increasing the number of rural physicians and residents. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/LHHS%20101320%20Item%204%20Attachemnt%20A%20NM%20Health%20Resouces.pdf>.

Questions and comments from committee members addressed the following topics:

- the size of the BCOM graduating classes and where the graduates go on to practice;
- whether osteopathic medicine residents have to be supervised by doctors of osteopathy;
- whether the panelists are considering legislation;

- whether legislative action can be taken to prevent out-of-state medical schools from taking New Mexico medical residents;
- the cost of attendance for BCOM students, the average amount of graduate debt and how this compares to the cost of attendance and debt accrued by a UNM School of Medicine graduate;
- that medical students should be able to practice in areas of medicine reflecting their passions without focusing on loan repayment;
- how much the Health Professional Loan Repayment Program costs the state per year;
- whether the loan forgiveness time line is increased under the presented legislation;
and
- how the increase in hospitalists affects primary care providers in the state.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 4:43 p.m.