



Administrative Office of the Courts
Karl W. Reifsteck, Director
Sarah Jacobs, Deputy Director



HEALTH CARE
AUTHORITY

Michelle Lujan Grisham, Governor
Kari Armijo, Cabinet Secretary
Kathy Slater-Huff, Deputy Secretary
Niki Kozlowski, Acting Deputy Secretary
Alanna Dancis, Acting Medicaid Director

Behavioral Health Reform and Investment Act Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: July 9, 2026 | Time: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
37 Plaza la Prensa, Santa Fe, NM 87507

- **Welcome and Roll Call**
 - Committee Members Present:
 - Nick Boukas, Executive Committee Chair, *Behavioral Health Services Division Director at the New Mexico Health Care Authority*
 - Katherine Slater-Huff, *New Mexico Health Care Authority, Deputy Cabinet Secretary as proxy for Kari Armijo, New Mexico Health Care Authority Cabinet Secretary*
 - Michal Hayes, *New Mexico Health Care Authority, Medical Assistance Division Senior Deputy Director as proxy for Alanna Dancis, Acting Medicaid Director*
 - Karl W. Reifsteck, *Administrative Office of the Courts Director*
 - Dr. Violette Cloud, *Behavioral Health Expert (Virtual)*
 - Dr. Stacey Cox, *Behavioral Health Expert (Virtual)*
 - Gerald P. “Jerry” Ortiz y Piño, *Former Senator, Behavioral Health Expert*
 - Behavioral Health Reform and Investment Act Leads:
 - Sarah Jacobs, *Administrative Office of the Courts Deputy Director*
 - Pam Trujillo, *Behavioral Health Reform & Investment Act Program Manager, Court Programs Division*
- **Quorum Confirmation**
 - A quorum was established.
- **Meeting Called to Order**
 - The meeting was convened at 9:00 a.m.
 - Chairman Boukas welcomed attendees.
- **Approval of Minutes and Agenda**
 - Agenda for July 9, 2026, BHEC Meeting
 - Dr. Cox requested removal of agenda item on Rural Regional Health support.
 - Senator Ortiz y Piño motioned to approve the Agenda as amended.
 - Director Reifsteck seconded the motion.
 - All members present voted in favor, and the Agenda was approved.
 - Minutes from April 23, 2026, BHEC Meeting



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- Director Hayes requested spelling correction on Page 8.
- Director Reifsteck motioned to approve the Minutes as amended.
- Dr. Cox seconded the motion.
- The motion passed unanimously.

• **Old Business | Administrative Office of the Courts Updates**

- Pamela Trujillo, Administrative Office of the Courts, Behavioral Health Reform & Investment Act Program Manager and Sarah Jacobs, Administrative Office of the Courts, Deputy Director
 - Program Manager Trujillo summarized Tribal engagement to date, including consultant-supported outreach to Tribes on the regional planning process.
 - The Tribal Regional Plan Priority Template (Tribal Addendum) was presented—a mechanism for Nations, Pueblos, and Tribes to participate in regional planning consistent with government-to-government relationships.
 - Of 23 Nations, Pueblos, and Tribes, 20 have committed to submit letters or a Tribal Addendum, and two Tribal addenda have been formally received by the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC).
 - AOC is executing contracts to provide ongoing technical assistance on regional planning.
- Committee Questions & Discussion:
 - Members followed up on a prior discussion of Tribal funding allocation, noting that a revised formula has not yet been finalized. It was noted that Region 7 (Alamo) has submitted a letter of support but has not received a funding allocation.
 - Dr. Cloud requested clarification on AOC's approach to the Tribal Addendum and its relationship to tribal sovereignty. AOC explained that the Addendum allows a Tribal entity to identify one priority and submit a budget justification.
 - Chairman Boukas asked whether a Tribal Addendum would function as a sixth priority alongside Region 5's approved priorities. Dr. Cloud noted statutory flexibility; regions may designate multiple accountable entities, authorize additional priorities to address gaps, and designate Tribal entities as accountable entities eligible for direct funding.
 - Director Reifsteck stated that changes to the Committee's approach regarding accountable entities and regional priorities should be formally proposed and voted on by the full Committee, and requested the item be placed on a future agenda.
 - Senator Ortiz y Piño questioned the funding allocation formula, including reliance on Indian Health Service (IHS) population data, noting that Nations, Pueblos, and Tribes also have access to Federal 638 funds, IHS funds, and gaming revenue.
 - Members noted that the current funding allocation had already been presented and approved after public comment.



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- The Committee agreed to continue discussion of the funding formula and Tribal Addendum structure at a future meeting, including a formal proposal and vote.
- **Old Business | New Mexico Health Care Authority Updates**
 - Nick Boukas, *Executive Committee Chair, Behavioral Health Services Division Director at the New Mexico Health Care Authority*
 - An offer has been extended for the *Deputy Director of Behavioral Health Transformation & Innovation* role at BHSD. A response is anticipated shortly.
 - New hires, allocated to support regional planning, include regional coordinators: Camie Willetto (Farmington, supporting Regions 2, 11, 13), Francine Arguello (Las Vegas, supporting Regions 1, 4, 8, 10), Laurie Dudek (Roswell, supporting Regions 5, 9, 12) and Silvia Robles (Las Cruces, supporting Regions 3, 6, 7).
 - BHSD Tribal Liaison, Chasity Sandoval, supports Tribal communities.
 - The Behavioral Health Technical Assistance Center (BHTAC), an updated statewide provider directory, continues to work on improving 988/911 interoperability.
 - Committee Questions & Discussion:
 - Senator Ortiz y Pino requested a regional report on Early Access Funding requested, awarded, and expended to date. HCA agreed to provide it.
 - Members discussed the disbursement of Early Access Funds on a reimbursement basis and considered alternative distribution models, including direct government-to-government distribution to accountable entities. Members noted differing views regarding the accountability implications of each approach.
 - HCA continues working within procurement rules to balance timely disbursement with fiscal accountability. Funds may support certain non-reimbursement costs, including staffing, vehicles, and infrastructure tied to approved budget items.
 - Dr. Cox emphasized the need for personnel to support regions and accountable entities and suggested convening a work group to identify regional points of contact. Chairman Boukas agreed to continue working with Dr. Cox on this item.
 - Senator Ortiz y Piño requested that online public comments be compiled for Committee response.
- **Regional Plan Proposals**
 - The Region 1 plan submission was shared with the Committee in advance of July 9 meeting.
 - Subject matter experts for Behavioral Health Region Plans completed their reviews.
 - Anne Ryan, MS, MA, LMSW, Community Services Director with Santa Fe County, attended to answer questions.



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- Committee Questions & Discussion:
 - Questions were raised about the region's client navigation system. Ms. Ryan reported that the region plans to expand the Unite Us platform region-wide, with Los Alamos County, Rio Arriba County, and a participating Pueblo joining, if the plan is approved.
 - Clarification was requested on the region's use of Early Access Funding. Ms. Ryan noted the Governor's January 22 emergency declaration related to overdose fatalities and stated the funding is serving as seed funding for detoxification and crisis stabilization expansion and an additional EMS mobile integrated health unit.
 - Discussion focused on avoiding duplication with Medicaid reimbursement. Ms. Ryan stated the region's approach emphasizes strengthening existing infrastructure rather than creating new programs.
 - Questions were raised about coordination with the New Mexico Department of Health on county-level MAT services. Ms. Ryan confirmed ongoing coordination, including regional meetings, and noted DOH is applying opioid settlement funds toward local MAT expansion.
 - The scope of the workforce development priority was reviewed. Ms. Ryan indicated the initiative is designed to encourage collaborative proposals from regional educational and training institutions through a subcontracting model.
 - Senator Ortiz y Piño moved to approve Region 1's Plan.
 - Director Reifsteck seconded the motion.
 - The motion passed unanimously.
- **Public Comment**
 - Comments were received from both in-person and online attendees
- **Next Meeting, Agenda Tops, and Action Items**
 - Questions About Process & Public Meeting Requirements
 - Director Reifsteck, Senator Ortiz y Piño, and Dr. Cloud sought clarity on:
 - Whether the committee will vote on the outputs of the work session
 - How the work session's recommendations will be presented back to the full body
 - Compliance with open meeting requirements, especially if smaller groups meet.
 - During the month of August, the Committee will be reviewing in nine regional plans. The goal will be to have two 4-hour meetings instead of one 8-hour meeting to reduce the burden on regional representatives with other governmental responsibilities.
 - The next Behavioral Health Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for August 14.
 - The Committee agreed to identify an additional meeting date to accommodate remaining regional plan presentations.



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- Director Reifsteck identified the following items for a future Agenda:
 - A request from HCA regarding use of the “500 budget category” for endorsement of extended appropriation authority.
 - Continued discussion of the Tribal and Regional Funding Allocation Formula.
 - Vote on Tribal Addendum structure and its relationship to regional priorities.
- **Adjournment**
 - Senator Ortiz y Piño moved to adjourn the meeting,
 - Dr. Cox seconded the motion.
 - The motion passed unanimously.
 - Meeting adjourned at 11:52 a.m.