

CONFIDENTIAL – OCTOBER 17, 2025

Meeting ID: 858 8592 3577

During the brief session, legislators introduced 11 bills. The top priority for NMHA was [Senate Bill 1 – Health Care Grants and Stabilization](#), which expands the state’s Rural Health Care Delivery Fund (not to be confused with the new federal Rural Health Transformation Program) to help sustain essential health care services at risk of closure or reduction. The bill also extends eligibility to providers located in HRSA-designated high-needs geographic health professional shortage areas. Before the session began, draft language surfaced that would have excluded for-profit hospitals and providers from accessing the Fund and required disclosure of detailed financial and governance information in applications. Among many issues, we were concerned that this could impact those hospitals’ ability to access funds as part of the federal Rural Health Transformation Program if the state placed those dollars in the existing Rural Health Care Delivery Fund. Thanks to swift advocacy by NMHA, our partners, and you and your government relations teams and lobbyists, this language was removed prior to introduction. Several legislators raised concerns about the omitted for-profit language, including [Senator Katy Duhigg on the floor of the Senate](#). In response, Health Care Authority [Secretary Kari Armijo](#) noted during committee hearings that applicants for stabilization funds will still likely need

to provide robust financial documentation to demonstrate their inability to continue providing the services without state support.

The other four bills that were signed into law (no bills were vetoed) are:

- [House Bill 1](#) – General Appropriations
- [House Bill 2](#) – Health Care Coverage Changes (expands the uses of the Health Care Affordability Fund to support individuals losing premium tax credits for health insurance exchange plans)
- [Senate Bill 2](#) – Criminal Competency
- [Senate Bill 3](#) – Immunization Rules & Recommendations (see [Source NM article](#) for more information)

House Bill 1 includes \$100,000 to “implement interstate compacts regarding health care professionals.” No other legislation about interstate compacts advanced.

Please reach out to **Julia Ruetten**, jruetten@nmhsc.com, with any questions.

OUR BIGGEST EVENT YET: THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING THE 80TH ANNUAL MEETING

The show must go on, and while we worked the special session and followed developments closely, nothing could stop us from gathering with our New Mexico hospital community at the 80th Annual Meeting September 30 – October 2. Once again, the Sandia Resort provided a beautiful backdrop and our members, sponsors, speakers, partners and statewide hospital volunteers came together to celebrate, learn and network. Photos by **Warren Yehl**, Julia Ruetten, Andrea Lohse and Lydia Caba. Look for a report on the 8th Annual New Mexico Hospital Quality Awards in our next issue. Thank you all!



At left: The winning team! Our golf event benefitted NMHA HealthPAC and this year's matching charitable donation recipient, Health Leadership High School.
At right: Flat Troy welcomes attendees to the Annual Meeting.





Immediate Past Chair Warren Yehl; 2025-26 Board of Directors Chair Kate Becker; (the real, 3D) Troy Clark



Leticia Archuleta of Health Leadership High School, Albuquerque, introduces one of her seniors, who through STEM-focused course work and joint college classes at CNM will graduate high school with her Medical Assistant certificate next May.



Keynote Hannah Ubl talks workplace culture with attendees spanning 4 generations.



Fun with friends! Perfect weather set the stage for our networking dinner and Cornhole Tournament. Congratulations to [Socorro General Hospital](#), this year's champs! They'll become the home of the coveted traveling trophy.



Troy Clark leads the "Meet with your MCOs" panel. From left, Clark with Janice Torrez, Tony Hernandez, Darcie Robran-Marquez, and Drew Peterson.

YOUR ANNUAL MEETING APP IS THE RESOURCE THAT KEEPS ON GIVING

[NMHA](#), [HSC](#) and our Co-Host, [Spacelabs Healthcare](#), are grateful to you, our healthcare community, for making the 80th Annual Meeting a success.

Don't forget, our event app stays live all year. Access the app to:

- Find information on the sponsors you met.
- Study Quality Award project storyboards.
- Revisit the presentations you loved (and see some you missed).
- Read speaker and member bios.

Use this link to install the app to your mobile device: <https://my.yapp.us/NMHA80TH2025>

If you have the Yapp™ app, but haven't yet accessed this meeting, use the code **NMHA80TH2025** at the prompt.

If you've previously installed Yapp™ and entered the code but still cannot see and/or access this event—delete/uninstall the app and reinstall it.



GOVERNOR LUJAN GRISHAM REAFFIRMS SUPPORT FOR MEDICAL MALPRACTICE REFORM, SENATE REPUBLICANS HOST MALPRACTICE TOWN HALL

Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham repeated her support for addressing medical malpractice reform during a recent interview on NMPBS's *New Mexico in Focus*. The Governor announced that she intends to include medical malpractice on the "call" for the upcoming 2026 Legislative Session, allowing lawmakers to take up the issue during the 30-day session. She also voiced her support for New Mexico's participation in various interstate medical licensure compacts. [Watch the Governor's remarks here.](#)

In a separate event, NMHA and our members participated in the **New Mexico Senate Republicans' Healthcare Access Task Force** meeting on September 29, where the conversation brought together providers, patients, business leaders, and **Secretary Gina DeBlaise** of the Department of Health to explore challenges and potential solutions. **Kaye Green**, CEO of Roosevelt General Hospital, **Darren Shafer, MD**, Medical Director of Urgent and Emergent Services at Presbyterian Healthcare Services, and NMHA's **Julia Ruetten** participated in a panel discussion focused on the current landscape for our state's hospitals relative to medical malpractice. [View the full hearing here.](#)



Photo: Patrick Lohmann, Source NM
<https://sourcenm.com/briefs/nm-gop-forum-lays-out-states-medical-malpractice-challenges/>

FREE COMMUNITY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH EVENT OCTOBER 23

Register: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/voices-for-hope-suicide-prevention-and-mental-health-awareness-tickets-1633030581429?utm_experiment=test_share_listing&aff=ebdsshios

Voices of Hope



KEVIN HINES
SUICIDE PREVENTION ADVOCATE



NICK BOUKAS, DIRECTOR OF NM
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES DIVISION
UNDER THE HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY

Join us in bringing a powerful, community-wide conversation to life by supporting Voices for Hope, a suicide prevention and mental health awareness event featuring nationally recognized speaker Kevin Hines; Nick Boukas, Director of Behavioral Health Services; and a panel discussion with the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI).



FREE COMMUNITY EVENT!
PLEASE REGISTER TO RSVP USING THE QR
CODE



THURSDAY | OCTOBER 23

5:00 PM – APPETIZERS & RESOURCE TABLES
GUESTS CAN ENJOY LIGHT REFRESHMENTS AND EXPLORE RESOURCE TABLES
6:00 PM – PRESENTATION
FEATURED SPEAKER(S)

5400 GIBSON BLVD, SE 87108 | EDUCATION BUILDING | EAST
SIDE ENTRANCE OFF OF VALENCIA

CARA WORKGROUPS FORMING: REQUEST TO PARTICIPATE ON BEHALF OF HOSPITALS BY OCTOBER 21

CARA Workgroup Application

As the implementation of SB42 moves forward the **HCA is seeking community and other stakeholder input** and will be convening 6 distinct workgroups to inform the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA) Program redesign. **The NMHA strongly encourages hospital participation in this process.** The CARA Workgroups are as follows:



CARA Navigator Work Group - this work group will create processes for CARA Navigators to access information about members in the CARA Program who are identified prenatally, intrapartum, postpartum or in the emergency department and connect with these individuals to assist with fulfilling the plans of safe care. The CARA Navigators will be responsible for creating touch points and documentation as well as ensuring that referrals are completed via closed loop processes.

CARA Hospital Presence Work Group - this work group will create processes to act as a hub among the following stakeholders: facilities, CARA Navigators, CYFD, and MCOs. The processes must ensure timely Plan of Safe Care initiation and Safety Plans for Children in state custody situations as well as compliance with state and federal regulations.

CARA Plan of Safe Care (POSC) Work Group - this work group will update the existing POSC template and expand it to include record of documentation for CARA Navigator touch points and all interdisciplinary actions. This work group will also define 'compliance' metrics and outcomes for the POSC. This work group will also draft patient information and informed consent documents to be standardized for use in all health care settings in the state.

CARA Training Work Group - this work group will work with BHSD to identify screening tools, create trainings and protocols for health care providers across the state. This work group will also be responsible for aligning trainings with national standards for perinatal people with substance use disorders, as well as training providers in screening newborns.

CARA POSC Portal Work Group - this work group will be a cross-state agency team responsible for researching and selecting a portal vendor, creating policy relevant to the portal as required by Senate Bill 42, influencing components of the portal, and holding testing sessions with providers to elicit feedback. This work group will create training for providers on how to use the portal.

CARA Tribal Work Group - this work group will be responsible for oversight of interventions to ensure cultural safety, as well as ensuring timely communications with all Tribal Nations about individuals enrolled in a CARA POSC.

The HCA invites robust community input, from those with lived experiences and knowledge from the various and diverse New Mexico communities. Complete the application at this link: [CARA Work Group Application](#) to select the work group(s) of interest between **by Oct. 21, 2025**. If selected, you will be notified by email by Oct. 28. Work groups will meet remotely (online) approximately every 2 weeks until summer 2026.

MORE FROM HCA: NEWS YOU NEED TO KNOW



Changes to Allowable Telehealth Services in Medicaid

During the Covid-19 public health emergency, the federal government expanded allowance of telehealth services via audio-only platforms. The extension of this federal allowance for audio-only telehealth service ended September 30, 2025, with the exception of behavioral health services. The allowance to use audio-only telehealth platforms for behavioral health services has been extended permanently. For questions or concerns, please contact the Consolidated Customer Service Center for New Mexico Medicaid at 1-800-299-7304.

Turquoise Care Claims Roadshow Postponed

The Health Care Authority is committed to ensuring that the launch of the Turquoise Claims system is seamless, reliable, and beneficial to providers and the New Mexicans you serve.

As part of this commitment, HCA has decided to reschedule the upcoming Turquoise Claims Roadshow events to allow more time for final improvements and testing. This proactive step ensures that when we meet with you, we can demonstrate a system that reflects the high standards of quality and performance that providers expect and deserve.

We are working to make the necessary improvements and will communicate the new dates for Turquoise Claims demos as soon as they are determined. Thank you for your continued support, patience, and partnership as we work toward delivering a system that meets your needs.

For updated information and resources, visit the [Turquoise Claims web page](#).

If you have any questions, please email us at HCA-TurquoiseClaims@hca.nm.gov.

Compliance Roundtable Webinar

November 10, 2025
12:00 – 2:00 pm, MT



COMPLIANCE

Join NMHA for the autumn edition of our compliance and regulatory update webinar. The agenda is under development, but as always all NMHA members are invited to attend (**pre-registration required: [register here](#)**). The meeting will be recorded and shared with all who register. Questions? Email Julia Ruetten, jruetten@nmhsc.com



Healing Policy for Healthcare.
Together.

“We have the data and the experts to create real solutions. There’s no question there. The question is: Do we have the political will to implement the solution?”
– Brunder



Healthcare Summits

Reform Begins By Listening to Patients and Clinicians.

Oct 21	5pm	Grants
Nov 3	5pm	ABQ
Nov 13	5pm	Taos
Nov 19	5pm	Las Cruces
Dec 2	5pm	Virtual

About

Patient-Led New Mexico is a nonpartisan, patient-centered initiative committed to building a stronger healthcare future by exposing systemic challenges, upholding excellence, and inspiring collaborative reform. We are focused on:

- Righting the Scales of Medical Malpractice
- Ending Below-Cost Reimbursements
- Reducing The Hidden Tax Crippling Access

Join Us



Register Today

Register online to attend one of the five healthcare summits across the Land of Enchantment. There is limited space.

Elevate Real Voices

We’re collecting stories from clinicians and patients to show what’s really happening in New Mexico’s hospitals. Connect with us today.

www.patientlednm.org



NMHA AND OUR MEMBERS IN THE NEWS...

[AI is filling gaps in New Mexico's strained health care sector — and stirring unease](#), Natalie Robbins, Albuquerque Journal, NMHA: **Troy Clark** (NMHA), **Mel Peralta** (Lovelace Heart Institute), **Diego Gonzales** (PresNOW)/Presbyterian, UNMH, 10-13-2025

[My View Jennifer Schroer, Patients pay the price for lack of bold reform](#), Jen Schroer, Santa Fe New Mexican, NMHA: NMHA, UNMH, 10-11-2025

[San Juan Regional named top New Mexico hospital, SJRMC earns top honors in NMHA Quest for Excellence Awards](#), Lenora Lare, Tri-City Record, NMHA: **Cindy Baez**, **Maranda Marquez**, **Jason Rounds** (San Juan Regional); **Troy Clark** (NMHA), 10-10-2025

[OPINION: Justice denied: Lawmakers sidestepped bold reform](#), Jen Schroer, Albuquerque Journal, NMHA: NMHA, UNMH, 10-10-2025

[Nonprofit hopes to help New Mexicans frustrated with doctor shortage](#), Jacqlin Aragon, KOB, NMHA: NMHA, 10-14-2025

[NM lawmakers offer preview of next year's medical malpractice legislation, Republicans, Democrats and Gov all expected to throw in possible solutions](#), Patrick Lohmann, Source NM, NMHA: UNMH, 10-13-2025

[UNM Hospital nurse killed in crash, confusion in court over suspect's actions](#), Jacqlin Aragon, KOB4, NMHA: **Alec Montoya**, UNMH, 10-10-2025

[New Mexico Patients Organize for Healthcare Reform](#), Sara E. Teller, Legal Reader, Legal News, Analysis & Commentary, NMHA: **Troy Clark**, 10-9-2025

[States scramble to access \\$50B rural health fund to offset Medicaid cuts](#), Abigail Wilt, Tucson Sentinel, NMHA: **James Kiser**, Holy Cross Medical center, 10-9-2025

[Putting off a screening mammogram can delay life-saving care](#), Greg Repetti, Las Cruces Sun-News, Interim CEO, MountainView Regional Medical Center, NMHA: **Greg Repetti**, MountainView Regional, 10-9-2025

[Hospital sees little promise in fed relief funding](#), Stephanie Gates, Taos News, NMHA: **Brittany Hamilton**, **James Kiser**, **Sue Romansky**, **Victoria Santistevan**, Holy Cross, 10-7-2025

[New nonprofit aims to elevate patient voices amid doctor shortage in New Mexico](#), Daniel J. Chacón, Santa Fe New Mexican, NMHA: **Troy Clark**, 10-6-2025

[UNM Hospital Critical Care Tower Now Open](#), UNM Health Sciences News, NMHA: UNMH, 10-5-2025

[My View Christina Campos, Health care compacts will maximize federal dollars for rural hospitals](#), Christina Campos, Santa Fe New Mexican, NMHA: **Guadalupe County**, 10-2-2025

[Patient-Led NM Launches Statewide Summits and Video Campaign to Spotlight New Mexico's Healthcare Crisis, A Call for New Mexicans to Demand Policy Reform That Secures Timely Access to High-Quality Care](#), Patient-Led NM, KOIN 6 News via Globe Newswire, NMHA: **Troy Clark**, NMHA, 9-30-2025