



**NEW MEXICO SUPREME COURT COMMISSION**  
**ON**  
**MENTAL HEALTH AND COMPETENCY**

**FY 2024 - 2029**  
**Strategic Plan Update**  
**FY 2026**

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## **OVERVIEW**

On May 23, 2025, the NMSC Commission on Mental Health and Competency (CMHC) convened at the Elegante Lodge in Ruidoso, New Mexico to update the FY 2024-2029 strategic plan. All voting members were invited to the retreat.

### **2025 CMHC RETREAT PARTICIPANTS:**

Chief Judge Angie Schneider, Chair

Jamie Michael, Vice-chair

Justice Briana Zamora – NMSC liaison

Judge Bruce Fox

Judge Jason Lidyard

Commander Gerard Bartlett

Dr. Violette Cloud

Professor Ann Delpha

Kimberly Weston (for Christopher Suarez)

Rachael Sutherland (for Dayna Jones)

Dr. Randy Otto

Marco Alarid White, Community Member

Celina Jones & Kerry Armour (support staff)

## **BACKGROUND ON FY 2026 UPDATED STRATEGIC PLAN**

The CMHC's greatest strength lies in its diverse perspectives. The Commission is composed of leaders from various disciplines and it seeks to engage and collaborate with various entities and stakeholders throughout the state.

At the 2025 retreat, participants explored the power and benefits of sharing different viewpoints as a means to creating better and more inclusive solutions to accomplish CMHC goals. The members 1) reaffirmed the mission and vision, 2) updated the objectives, and 3) created new action plans and team assignments.

## **Mission Statement**

CMHC is on a mission to improve outcomes for individuals experiencing behavioral health and cognitive challenges by:

- Inspiring collaborative change across systems;
- Ensuring access to services and treatment; and
- Ending stigma and discrimination.

## **FIVE-YEAR VISION**

In FY 2029, CMHC has successfully promoted the following improvements:

- Worked with other agencies to support mental health workforce and infrastructure;
- Engaged with communities and people with lived experiences to promote implementation of effective services;
- Significantly improved the competency-to-stand-trial process;
- Increased diversion pathways at multiple points in the sequential intercept model;
- Created greater connection with other systems, including jails, prisons, state hospitals, and housing for justice affected populations;
- Developed best practices for competency and diversion programs;
- Continued to work effectively as a Commission;
- Increased compassion for behavioral health and cognitive issues; and
- Improved and saved lives.

## **FIVE-YEAR MEASURABLES (FY-2026 Update)**

In FY 2029, CMHC is able to document:

1. Measurable reduction in time in jail;
2. Measurable reduction of familiar faces;
3. Measurable reduction in wait time for evaluations;
4. Measurable increase in number of people diverted;
5. Measurable reduction in competency evaluations ordered;

## **FIVE-YEAR OBJECTIVES (FY-2026 Update)**

1. Make necessary rule changes. (Statewide) – Modify and Continue
2. Develop Forensic Behavioral Health System. (Statewide) – No longer applicable
3. Develop effective quality workforce. (Targeted Pilot Districts) – Modify and Continue
4. Develop and implement forensic navigation services. (Targeted Pilot Districts) - Completed
5. Pilot Diversion Program for misdemeanors at first court appearance. (Targeted Pilot Districts) – Completed – Continue to add more sites
6. Train and educate justice partners/ implement general public outreach. (Statewide) – Continue
7. Establish provision of behavioral health services for jails, prisons, and state hospitals (include discharge plans). (Statewide) - No longer applicable
8. Create and implement universal validated screening tool. (Targeted Pilot Districts) - Completed
9. Create centralized system for data-sharing. (Targeted Pilot Districts) - Modify and Continue
10. Improve and expand AOT. (Targeted Pilot Districts) - No longer applicable
11. Ensure housing is available. (Targeted Pilot Districts) - Modify and Continue
12. Advocate for broadband availability. (Targeted Pilot Districts) - No longer applicable
13. Address juvenile and youth competency issues and diversion opportunities. (Targeted Pilot Districts) - Continue

## **ACTION PLANS AND TEAMS (FY-2026 Update)**

During the 2025 Retreat, two (2) new teams were created, and two (2) were discontinued. The current five (5) teams with the team leaders and goals are listed below.

- Statute/Rule Team – Discontinued
  - Forensic behavioral health system Team – Discontinued
  - Training, Education, and Outreach Team – Continued
  - Juvenile and Youth Team – Continued
  - Diversion, Competency and SIM Team – Renamed (formally Diversion Pilot Team)
  - Housing for Diversion Programs – New
  - Data to Measure Accomplishments - New
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1. **Diversion, Competency and SIM Team** (Judge Lidyard and Jamie Michael)
    - Goal #1: Establish diversion options at multiple points in the sequential intercept. Model.
    - Goal #2: Expand services and increase treatment capacity to serve people diverted out of justice system.

- Goal #3 - Support the changes resulting from HB 8 to improve competency process.
- 2. **Juvenile and Youth Team** (Judge Schneider and Kaisa Marshall)
  - Goal #1: Prevent young people from entering the adult criminal system.
- 3. **Training, Education, and Outreach Team** (TBD)
  - Goal #1: Increase knowledge about SMI and competency to reduce stigma and improve justice system response to people with SMI.
- 4. **Housing** (Violette Cloud)
  - Goal:#1: Improve housing collaboration and implementation efforts that affect justice involved individuals with mental illness and substance use disorders.
- 5. **Data** (Jamie Michael)
  - Goal #1: Improve and expedite the competency evaluation process by better sharing medical information with forensic evaluators.
  - Goal #2: Collect, track and report data related to CMHC programs/initiatives to determine if they are effective.

# GENERAL GUIDELINES

## Internal CMHC Processes

### CMHC quarterly meetings:

- Agenda is set and posted online according to Open Meetings Act;
- Minutes are taken and voted on at subsequent meetings;
- Commission executive committee provides commission-wide updates;
- Subcommittee Leads give their team's overview, including purpose, goals, accomplishments, and needs; and
- Administrative office of the Courts (ACO) staff and commission executive committee identifies speakers and coordinates presentations based on CMHC action plan and member feedback.

### CMHC Monthly team meetings:

- Team Leads:
  - Set agenda, which is not posted outside of subcommittee
  - Take notes on action items or decisions
  - Update the action planning form
  - Send notes and action planning form to designated AOC staff **after each monthly meeting**
  - Send action planning form to designated AOC staff **one-week prior to quarterly meetings** for inclusion in quarterly meeting agenda
- Action Plan Forms (Example Attached):
  - Action plans were developed during the retreat and are intended to track and report progress. Each Team will use the planning form during team meetings, submit to designated AOC staff after each meeting, and present to the members during the quarterly meetings.