

# July 22, 2024 iSOS Meeting notes

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Every week in our upcoming agenda we make sure to highlight upcoming week's events such as:
  - Postcard writing opportunities for including for CD2
  - Vote Forward information
  - Reclaim our vote (potential voters of color)
- Discussed
  - CONSENT AGENDA
  - Environmental Movie of re-generative agriculture
  - Election information -
    - DIY and others. If you are anxious, there's lots to be done. Always in the agenda

## SPEAKER

Voices for Children: Bill Jordan is a Government Relations Officer and leads New Mexico Voices for Children's legislative advocacy efforts in Santa Fe and Washington D.C. Sarah Minor-Schaeuble is New Mexico Voices for Children's Community Relations

- Lobbyist (prefers the term advocate) for Voices for Children, 26 years. Retiring at the end of August
- The organization helps develop policy agenda, mostly here in Congress in NM. In local governments, if it advances something they want to push on the state level.
- It was founded by pediatricians who noticed their patients were there because of social issues—and focused on advocating for families. Org is 35years old.
- Mission - health, education, family economic security. Adults vote as a proxy for kids.
- All of this is influenced by an equity lens.
- Theory of change
  - Research and data and policy. No members. Looks at data on political realities along with input from coalition partners: Ole, Somos, El Central
  - Communication- learning how to talk about what is needed and how to communicate the needs.
  - Publishes reports and talks to lawmakers. And takes them to Roundhouse people.
  - Lived experience and data brings a good conversation .
  - We are state affinity for Anne E Casie's Kids Count
    - NM's measurement of poverty has gone up. BUT - It only measures income, and does not account for anything done to mitigate poverty.
    - The supplemental poverty rate is dropping. Data is 2015 - 2022.
    - What's needed is an increase in minimum wage.
- Policy Wheel - lots of different areas are affected by policy such as Tax Fairness, Human Rights & Civil Participation; Healthy & Safe Communities, Cradle to Career Education
- State Budget with state dollars only. If you add Federal dollars, most of it is Medicaid.
- Big three: Education, Health Care, etc.
- Suzanna Martinez, we ran into a problem with money and that's why we had to cut so much.
- Where we get the money:
  - GRT. Very regressive tax. This is our biggest source.
  - The next is mining or Gas & Oil or trust fund money. It's not \$ that goes to trust funds.
  - Transferred to the budget every year. Remember what we did for early education. Other states don't have this but they make it up otherwise. That's 25% of the budget.

- Income is the most progressive piece. Based on how much to keep, not how much you make.
- Corporate tax is 2%, used to be 5%. Peter Wirth keeps passing little pieces of the corporate income tax piece.
- Recent Wins
  - Working family tax credit, state Child Tax Credit
  - Education- Higher ed free, K-12 funding increases
  - Cradle to career education
  - Healthy & Safe Communicates
  - With paid family leave and minimum wage may have to wait
  - Licensed dental care
  - Medicaid
    - asked feds if we could cover kids from 0-6 without having to renew eligibility. Kids born now will get 6 years of Medicaid.
    - During Covid, the state couldn't drop you off Medicaid through the emergency. When that ended families had to re-apply. Tens of thousand of kids lost coverage. State asked to put them on if they are under 6. Now will go up to 19. They are waivers.
  - Medicaid has moved to HealthCare Authority.
  - Healthcare eligibility act - to provide affordable for anyone who is not eligible including undocumented. Can buy for state but not federal. This session Medicaid forward will pass. Then maybe July 1.
  - In the last couple of years, Medicaid has increased the reimbursement. Rates were raised significantly. Mostly state.
  - Pam - not enough providers for children and for those who experience domestic violence.
  - CYFD is in a really difficult place where people have a reasonable workload a lot of what families need is getting the people who do the work - getting people credentialized. We don't have career paths, hard for people coming into the state.
  - ALMOST HALF THE STATE IS ON MEDICAID.
  - Best jobs in rural are in Medicaid. If a Rep who lives in a rural area, they will have to go to a Medicaid doctor.
  - Budgets are non-partisan. Other issues - like Tax.
- Where do we go from here?
  - Voting rights,
  - Women
  - Healthcare - fully fund Medicaid. Will be a high price tag. Keep provider rights.
  - Maximize **healthcare affordability fund**.
  - P Drug affordability
  - Continue to rebuild behavioral health.
  - Environmental health. Looking for funding to create staff spots here.
  - Improvements in gun safety
  - Increase tax on tobacco, etc,
  - Continue to fund safety net programs. Affordable housing - investing in infrastructure is a one time expense.
  - Paid Family medical leave
  - Baby bonds - a new idea with focus on new borns and affordable ed.
  - Minimum wage
  - Food insecurity- we keep adding state dollars to SNAP. Helping Farm to table orgs. We were the first state in the nation to provide free school meals.

- Lawmakers are getting to get antsy about the needed increase in childcare, Now we need to focus on quality, Tends to be a workforce issue. Maybe pay a little more.
  - Creating and funding a career ladder for child care workers.
- Continuing address Yassie Martinez. They have been supporting not the lead. Dept of Ed seems to be dragging their feet on this.
- NM has some of the toughest laws on the books for clean air, etc. but not implemented.

We want this we want that and legislators would say where do we get the revenue? We've been getting rev from the wrong places. We could do better so we are not relying on O&G by improving our tax structure.

MLG has done a phenomenal job on the budget and the growth in the budget. Her and lawmakers.