

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
CRIME VICTIMS REPARATION COMMISSION

MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM
GOVERNOR



FRANK ZUBIA
DIRECTOR

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
CRIME VICTIMS REPARATION COMMISSION-(NMCVRC)

May 22, 2025, Commission Meeting Minutes

6200 Uptown Blvd. NE Suite #210
Albuquerque, NM 87110

Meeting Called to Order

On May 22, 2025, Commission Chair Karst called the May meeting of the New Mexico Crime Victims Reparation Commission to order at 10:18 a.m.

Commission Chair Karst announced the names of the Commission members of the public body and acknowledged those who are participating in person and remotely.

The following Commission Members were present:

David Karst, Commission Chair (Virtual)
Sheriff Kim Stewart, Commission Vice Chair (Virtual)
Cody Rogers, Commission Member (Virtual)

The following NMCVRC staff members were present:

Frank Zubia, Director
Cindy Mok, Chief Financial Officer
Donna Richmond, Grants Bureau Chief (Virtual)
Jacqueline Sanchez, Compensation Bureau Chief
Kristin Wood-Hegner, VAWA Grant Administrator
Rose Martinez, State Investigator
Anna Quintana, Compensation Management Analyst

The following members of the public were in attendance:

Eduardo Ugarte II, Assistant NM Attorney
Joella Montoya, Executive Director with Community Against Violence (Virtual)
Katrina Ortiz, CAV (Virtual)
Celeste Trujillo, CAV (Virtual)
Whitney Lake, CAV (Virtual)
Daniel Scullin, CAV (Virtual)
Hijab Abraha, BCMC (Virtual)

Review Agenda

The agenda was reviewed by Commission Chair Karst and the Commission Board Members. Commission Chair Karst asked for a motion to approve. Commission Member Rogers made the motion to approve and Commission Vice Chair Stewart second the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

A roll call vote of the Commission was as follows: Commission Chair Karst, yes, Commission Member Rogers, yes, Commission Vice Chair Stewart, yes.

Review and Approval of April 24, 2025, Commission Meeting Minutes

Commission Chair Karst and Commission Members reviewed the Commission meeting minutes for April 24, 2025. Commission Chair Karst asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Commission Member Rogers made the motion to approve and Commission Vice Chair Stewart second the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

A roll call vote of the Commission was as follows: Commission Chair Karst, yes, Commission Member Rogers, yes, Commission Vice Chair Stewart, yes.

Public Comment

Ms. Joella Montoya, Executive Director of Community Against Violence (CAV), thanked the Commission for the opportunity to speak and for the support received during the RFP protest process. She acknowledged the presence of her leadership team to provide additional clarity if needed.

Ms. Montoya prepared a letter formally protesting the non-award of CAV's proposal under the FY2026 STOP VAWA Requests for Proposals (RFPs). For over 40 years, CAV has served as the sole sexual and domestic violence services provider in Taos County, currently covering a seven-county, 25,000-square-mile region. The protest centers on the denial of funding for CAV's Special Populations Advocate, which plays a critical role in supporting underserved rural and frontier communities, including 2S+LGBTQIA individuals, elders, and immigrants. She emphasized that this position is crucial to delivering accessible, trauma-informed services and aligns with the priorities of the 2022-2025 Strategic Implementation Plan. Ms. Montoya requested reconsideration of the decision, highlighting that the loss of funding would reduce CAV's capacity to support marginalized survivors.

Ms. Donna Richmond, Grants Bureau Chief, expressed appreciation for CAV's work in providing both domestic violence and sexual assault services, noting that they are one of the few agencies offering dual services. She emphasized that funding is limited, as the purpose of the STOP VAWA funding is to serve as seed money for a four-year project at local community service providers. This funding aims to help create a position or to support a program.

Ms. Kristin Wood-Hegner, VAWA Grant Administrator, provided funding figures, stating CVRC received over \$1.8 million in requests for this funding cycle, but only \$629,016 was available. She reiterated that the STOP VAWA funds projects at one hundred percent for the first two years, ninety percent for the third year, and eighty percent for the fourth year, with the expectation that other funding sources will replace the federal VAWA funding. She noted that CAV has already completed two full four-year cycles of VAWA funding.

Mr. Frank Zubia discussed the difficulties faced by the VAWA solicitation and peer review in prioritizing needs, highlighting that CVRC had to deny nearly \$1.2 million in funding requests. He acknowledged Commission Chair Karst's participation in the peer review process and CAV for their excellent work in extending emergency assistance funding.

Mr. Zubia encourages all service organizations to apply for current RFPs for domestic violence and sexual assault services, noting that CVRC has \$2 million available and \$1 million for each service area of sexual assault and domestic violence. The RFP closes **on May 27th**, and we encourage those who could not access VAWA funding to apply. He emphasized appreciation for CAV exercising their right to protest.

Ms. Celeste Trujillo, Client Service Director with CAV, asked whether the current RFPs mentioned by Mr. Zubia provide recurring or one-time funding, expressing concern about staffing sustainability.

Mr. Zubia responded that the current RFPs offer one-time, non-recurring funding for FY 2025-2026. However, he noted that both VAWA and VOCA will be open for competitive applications next year. CVRC continues to

advocate for recurring funding through the legislature, recognizing the need for sustainable support for nonprofit organizations across the state.

Commission Chair Karst advised sub-grantees to quickly fill grant-funded positions and maintain them to avoid reverting funds. When funds are returned, it complicates future funding requests, as it raises questions about the need.

Agency Financial Report

Ms. Mok provided an update on the status of the FY25 Victim Payment Budget. She reported that nearly \$2.5 million in victim payment has been approved and paid out. The current payout rate suggests a remaining fund balance of approximately \$500,000 to carry over into the next fiscal year for care and support.

Ms. Mok presented the Crime Victim Fund Budget Status Report to the Commission and informed that CVRC received \$440,016, including restitution and inmate wages, from the Department of Corrections. In addition, contributions from penalty assessments are minimal and have been showing a significant decline as these penalties were set to be canceled on July 1, 2024.

FY 2025 Crime Victims Fund - Budget Status

Payments received for the period of July 1, 2024, through May 13, 2025, by category:

Restitution: \$53,224

Corrections: \$359,195

Civil Settlement: \$14,096

Penalty Assessment: \$13,500

Total Received: \$440,016

Ms. Mok informed the Commission that the Department of Health notified CVRC that the legislature had approved an additional \$1 million each for sexual assault and domestic violence services. Since the Department of Health is not currently administering these funds, it will work on transferring them to CVRC. Should this transfer happen, it will increase the total allocation to \$2 million each for sexual assault and domestic violence services. CVRC is working with the Department of Health and the Department of Finance Administration's State Budget Division to ensure these funds can be transferred.

Mr. Zubia notified that a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Department of Health remains pending. Until the MOA is executed, additional funding for sexual assault and domestic violence services cannot be relied on. Upon completion, the total funding will be administered through the current RFP process for a period of one year, commencing July 1, 2025, and concluding on June 30, 2026. Organizations that had not previously participated in RFPs are encouraged to apply for this funding.

New Business

Proposed Commission Meeting Date Change

Mr. Zubia proposed changing the Commission meeting date from June 26th to June 12th at 3:00pm due to inconsistencies in agency appropriations and delays in releasing the RFPs for funding. The proposal was approved and dates will be modified on CVRC's website.

Business

Grant Status Report (VOCA, VAWA, SASP and State Funds)

Ms. Richmond informed the Commission that the STOP VAWA and the VAWA SASP are presented for final award approval. The Grants Department continues to work under business as usual. We have not received direction from our Federal Grant Administrators regarding the executive orders. Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) has posted six (6) federal funding opportunities; this is good news for VAWA. Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Assistance funding has been made available to our sub-recipients, and we are eagerly anticipating the release of the VOCA solicitation. The State VOCA Gap awards have been closed, and we have transitioned

to Federal VOCA funding. Quarterly statistical performance measurement reports are being processed through the federal portal. Three new requests for proposals were posted to the CVRC website on May 7th—state funding for Domestic Violence Services, Sexual Assault Services, and Civil Legal Services. Proposals are due by May 27th.

Community Against Violence – Protest of Non-Award STOP VAWA RFP

Mr. Zubia informed the Commission that all available funding has been allocated based on a thorough and fair review process. CVRC remains committed to transparency and accountability in its operations. All feedback received will be carefully considered to ensure that any issues raised during the protest process are addressed, allowing all voices to be heard. Furthermore, he mentions the need to adhere to the established rules and regulations of 10.40.3.10 STOP VAWA Grant Program, including the protest period.

STOP VAWA FY2026. Final Award Approval (Voting Item)

Ms. Wood-Hegner reiterated the points discussed in the April meeting regarding the preliminary approval of the FY2026 STOP VAWA awards, as recommended by the peer review committee. The recommendation consisted of approving 18 continuation applications, totaling \$677,269, and 11 new proposals, amounting to \$629,016. Following this vote, applicants were informed of the Commission's preliminary decision and given a seven-business-day protest period, which ended on May 5th. CVRC received one protest from the Community Against Violence, who presented earlier in the meeting. Appreciation was extended to Commission Chair Karst for his contributions as a reviewer.

Commission Member Rogers made the motion to approve, and Commission Vice Chair Stewart seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

A roll-call vote of the Commission was as follows: Commission Chair Karst, yes; Commission Member Rogers, yes; Commission Vice Chair Stewart, yes.

VAWA SASP FY2026 Final Award Approval (Voting Item)

Ms. Wood-Hegner reported that at the April 2025 meeting, the Commission preliminarily approved a Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP) award of \$814,954 for the FY2026, with the New Mexico Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs being the only applicant. Upon the Commission's final approval, CVRC will pass the award to the awardee for distribution of these funds to various agencies throughout the state.

Commission Member Rogers made the motion to approve, and Commission Vice Chair Stewart seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

A roll-call vote of the Commission was as follows: Commission Chair Karst, yes; Commission Member Rogers, yes; Commission Vice Chair Stewart, yes.

Action on Item Discussed in Executive Session

No items were discussed.

Date and Place of Next Meeting

The next Commission meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, June 12, 2025, at 3:00pm., at New Mexico Crime Victims Reparation Commission, 6200 Uptown Blvd. NE, Suite 210, in Albuquerque, NM, in the conference room.

Commission Meeting May 22, 2025

Adjourn

At 10:57 a.m., Commission Chair Karst adjourned the May 22, 2025, Commission meeting.

APPROVED:  Signed by: _____ DATE: 6/16/2025
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Commission Chair Karst

Voting Record

Claim #	#	Brown						Karst						Rogers						Stewart						Column2						Consensus						
240879	1	<u>D</u>	A	75	50	25	AB	<u>D</u>	A	75	50	25	AB	<u>D</u>	A	75	50	25	AB	D	A	75	50	25	AB	D	A	75	50	25	AB	<u>D</u>	A	75	50	25	RP	T
	2	D	A	75	50	25	AB	D	A	75	50	25	AB	D	A	75	50	25	AB	D	A	75	50	25	AB	D	A	75	50	25	AB	D	A	75	50	25	RP	T
	3	D	A	75	50	25	AB	D	A	75	50	25	AB	D	A	75	50	25	AB	D	A	75	50	25	AB	D	A	75	50	25	AB	D	A	75	50	25	RP	T

6/12/2025

Commission Chair Signature:

Signed by:


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