

STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
CRIME VICTIMS REPARATION COMMISSION

MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM  
GOVERNOR



FRANK ZUBIA  
DIRECTOR

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

**August 28, 2025, Commission Meeting Minutes**

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

**Meeting Called to Order**

On August 28, 2025, Commission Chair Karst called the August meeting of the New Mexico Crime Victims Reparation Commission to order at 10:00 a.m.

Commission Chair Karst requested Director Zubia to take roll call of the Commission members attending the meeting and of the public body and acknowledged those who are participating in person and virtually.

The following Commission Members were present:

Dr. Randall Brown, M.D., Commission Member (Virtual)  
David Karst, Commission Chair (Virtual)  
Cody Rogers, Commission Member (Virtual)  
Sheriff Kim Stewart, Commission Vice Chair (In-person)

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  
Rebecca Duran, State Investigator Supervisor  
Debra Yepa, State Investigator  
Leslie Valenzuela, State Investigator (Virtual)  
Kristina Escamilla, Administrative Secretary

The following members of the public were in attendance:

Eduardo Ugarte II, Assistant NM Attorney  
Carlos Ruiz (Virtual)

**Review Agenda**

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

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

**Review and Approval of the June 12, 2025 Regular Commission Meeting Minutes and the June 30, 2025 and July 24, 2025 Emergency Commission Meeting Minutes.**

Commission Chair Karst and Commission Members reviewed the Commission Meeting Minutes for June 12, 2025 and the Emergency Commission Meeting Minutes for June 30, 2025 and July 24, 2025. Commission Chair

Karst asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Commission Member Rogers made the motion to approve and Commission Member Dr. Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

### **Public Comment**

Mr. Carlos Ruiz shared his experience of being struck by a vehicle while cycling near Anthony, New Mexico, on October 12th. The driver fled the scene, leaving him unconscious until a passerby called 911. He was treated at University Medical Center and later diagnosed with permanent cervical spinal cord injury, ongoing pain, and partial loss of sensation.

Mr. Ruiz noted his claim for victim compensation was denied for not meeting the definition of “great bodily harm.” He expressed disagreement, citing medical evidence of permanent damage. He emphasized the lasting physical and psychological effects of the accident and urged the commission to consider the safety of cyclists in southern New Mexico. He concluded by thanking the commission for its time and attention.

### **Agency Financial Report**

Ms. Mok provided an update on the status of the FY 2026 Victim Payment Budget. She reported that nearly \$515,000 in victim payments have been approved and paid out. The current payout rate of victim payments is sufficient to cover expenses for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Ms. Mok presented the Crime Victim Fund Budget Status Report to the Commission and informed that CVRC received \$44,281 for the month of July. This fiscal year, CVRC is no longer receiving penalty assessment payments from the Administration of the Courts.

#### **FY 2026 Crime Victims Fund – Budget Status**

Payments received for the period of July 1, 2024, through August 20, 2025, by category:

Restitution: \$5,364

Corrections: \$38,347

Civil Settlement: \$0

Penalty Assessment: \$570

Total Received: \$44,281

### **FY2025 CVRC Annual Audit**

Ms. Mok reported that CVRC has begun its FY 2025 annual audit with Jaramillo Accounting Group, with the report due to the State Auditor by November 1st.

### **FY 2027 CVRC Budget Request**

Ms. Mok presented the FY 2027 budget request, which includes \$1 million in recurring funding for sexual assault services and \$1 million in non-recurring funding for a sexual assault helpline. She noted that the Governor’s Office has approved both requests despite the flat budget directive for executive agencies.

Mr. Zubia added that CVRC’s budget request was adjusted in response to the executive’s flat budget directive. The executive branch is committed to supporting \$1 million in recurring funding for sexual assault services. The legislature will determine final approval, and the Commission will be updated as developments occur.

### **New Business**

#### **Victim Assistance Training (VAT) October 20-24, 2025**

Mr. Frank Zubia reported that CVRC has scheduled its biennial Victim Assistance Training (VAT) for October 20-24, 2025, at the Marriott Uptown in Albuquerque. The training includes approximately 50 hours of virtual learning and 40 hours of in-person instruction, conducted in partnership with 27 organizations. CVRC will

provide scholarships for 50 new advocates statewide, covering registration, per diem, and meals. To ensure organizational commitment, participating agencies will be required to contribute a \$100 fee.

### **Agency Personnel**

Mr. Zubia reported that Kristin Wood-Hegner, the VAWA Administrator, has submitted her resignation and will be joining the New Mexico Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs as their Director of Grants Administration. Her last day is August 29, 2025. He noted her departure will be a hard adjustment for the agency, as she contributed significantly to the VAWA program.

Ms. Richmond added that she worked closely with Ms. Wood-Hegner during her final week to ensure a smooth transition. She highlighted Ms. Wood-Hegner's creativity and expertise, including the development of webinars for VOCA and VAWA, and stated that her knowledge will be greatly missed.

Mr. Zubia also reported four current vacancies: the VAWA Administrator position, two (2) State Investigator Positions, and one (1) Victim Resource Specialist position. The agency is working with the State Personnel Office (SPO) to fill these roles and has requested postings on Indeed to broaden the candidate pool. Updates will be provided as positions are filled.

### **Business**

#### **Federal Victim of Crime Act (VOCA) Victim Assistance (VA) Continuation Funding FFY26 Final Award (Voting Item)**

Ms. Richmond reported that the VOCA Victim Assistance continuation request for proposals closed on August 18th with 69 continuation applications. The VOCA funding is in its fourth and final year of a four-year contract cycle. She noted that four (4) agencies did not apply but absorbed their positions, ensuring services remain available. She requested commission approval of the 69 continuation requests totaling \$9,450,000, as outlined in the supplemental report.

Commission Member Rogers made the motion to approve, and Commission Member Dr. Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

#### **Grant Status Report (VOCA, VAWA, SASP, State Funds)**

Ms. Richmond reported that the State Grant Administrator administered \$17,133,000.00 in grant awards from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, including one-time funding for victims of violent crime. She commended Ms. Baca for her work in managing the contracts and payouts, noting that all funds had been spent with no reversions.

Mr. Zubia commended Ms. Baca and Mr. Ugarte for their work in administering contracts and amendments. He noted the challenges created when some service organizations do not fully expend their appropriations, which requires significant effort to redistribute the funds. Mr. Zubia recognized the Grants Department staff and the New Mexico Department of Justice (NMDNJ) for ensuring that all state monies were spent and that victims' needs across the state were met. He praised the team for completing this work within just a few months.

#### **VOCA Additional Special Condition**

Mr. Zubia reported that CVRC, in coordination with the Governor's office and the NMDNJ, is involved in a civil lawsuit challenging the new special conditions added by the Federal Department of Justice. The rule prohibits the use of federal funds to provide legal services to undocumented individuals, with limited exceptions, and is being applied retroactively to prior fiscal years. CVRC reviewed sub-recipient applications and, in consultation with legal counsel, determined that funded organizations serving undocumented victims of crime are not at risk and are eligible under the current guidelines. Mr. Zubia noted that CVRC does not require immigration status from

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the victim/client/survivors and submitted a 16-page declaration in support of the lawsuit, citing the burden of compliance. He assured the commission that CVRC will continue to provide updates as developments occur.

### Executive Session

At 11:06 a.m. Commission Chair Karst asked for a motion to enter Executive Session. Commission Member Dr. Brown made the motion to approve, and Commission Member Rogers seconded the motion.

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

At 11:26 p.m. Commission Chair Karst made a motion to come out of Executive Session. Commission Member Dr. Brown made the motion to approve, and Commission Member Rogers seconded the motion.

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

### Action on Item Discussed in Executive Session (Voting Item)

Claim # 251553


Mr. Zubia asked the Commission Members for a motion on claim #251553 to deny or approve. Commission members voted unanimously to approve this claim.

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

The next Commission meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, September 25, 2025, at 10:00 a.m., at New Mexico Crime Victims Reparation Commission, 6200 Uptown Blvd. NE, Suite 210, in Albuquerque, NM, in the conference room.

### Adjourn

At 11:28 a.m., Commission Chair Karst adjourned the August 28th, 2025 Commission meeting.

APPROVED:  DATE: 9/25/2025  
Commission Chair Karst