

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
CRIME VICTIMS REPARATION COMMISSION

MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM
GOVERNOR



FRANK ZUBIA
DIRECTOR

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
CRIME VICTIMS REPARATION COMMISSION-(NMCVRC)
February 26, 2026, Commission Meeting Minutes
6200 Uptown Blvd. NE Suite #210
Albuquerque, NM 87110

Meeting Called to Order

On February 26, 2026, Commission Chair Karst called the January 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, acknowledging those who are participating in person and virtually.

The following Commission Members were present:

David Karst, Commission Chair (Virtual)
Dr. Randall Brown, M.D., Commission Member (Virtual)
Cody Rogers, Commission Member (Virtual)

The following NMCVRC staff members were present:

Frank Zubia, Director
Cindy Mok, Chief Financial Officer
Jacqueline Sanchez, Compensation Bureau Chief
Rebecca Duran, State Investigator Supervisor
Debra Yepa, State Investigator
Melissa Santiestevan, VAWA Grant Administrator
Leslie Valenzuela, State Investigator (Virtual)
Kristina Escamilla, Administrative Secretary

Review Agenda

The agenda was reviewed by Commission Chair Karst and the Commission Members. Commission Chair Karst asked for a motion to approve the agenda. 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 Member Rogers, yes, Commission Member Dr. Brown, yes.

Review and Approval of January 29, 2026, Commission Meeting Minutes

Commission Chair Karst and Commission Members reviewed the Commission meeting minutes for January 29, 2026. 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 Member Rogers, yes, Commission Member Dr. Brown, yes.

Public Comment

No public comment

Agency Financial Report

Ms. Mok provided an update on the FY2026 Victim Payment Budget. She reported that \$1.7 million in victim payments have been approved and paid. The current payout rate is sufficient to cover victim payment expenses for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Ms. Mok reported that approximately \$275,000 has been received in restitution and inmate wages revenue.

While there was a temporary delay in inmate wage payments due to the Department of Corrections' new system, the December payment has been received, and only January remains outstanding.

Furthermore, the following payments were received for the period of July 1, 2025, through February 10, 2026, by category:

Restitution: \$37,873

Corrections: \$222,770

Civil Settlement: \$12,421

Penalty Assessment: \$2,360

Total Received: \$275,424

Final FY2025 Audit Report

Ms. Mok reported that the FY2025 single audit—the final part of the overall audit—has been submitted to the Office of the State Auditor (OSA). She thanked Commission Chair Karst for joining the exit conference with the auditor.

Ms. Mok reported to the Commission that the FY2025 single audit had no findings. The agency is now awaiting approval from the Office of the State Auditor. Once approved, the audit report will be finalized and uploaded to the OSA website for public access.

CVRC FY2027 Agency Operating Budget

Ms. Mok reported that the 2026 legislative session ended on February 19, 2026. The budget bill, HB2, is currently under the Governor's review. Under the HB2, CVRC is appropriated \$1 million in recurring general fund support for sexual assault services. Additionally, the HB2 includes \$660,000 in GRO funds earmarked for sexual assault services, including \$360,000 for statewide, \$150,000 for Cibola County, and \$150,000 for Valencia County. Updates will be provided once the budget bill is signed into law.

Director Zubia reported that the agency's audit exit conference was successfully completed with no findings or recommendations. The audit included a review of VAWA and SASP funding, as well as overall agency processes. He commended the grants, compensation, and administrative teams and thanked the Commission Chair Karst for participating in the exit conference.

New Business

Advocacy In Action Conference 2026, June 29 through July 1, 2026, at the Hyatt Regency Tamaya Resort & Spa

Director Zubia informed the Commission about the upcoming Advocacy In Action Conference scheduled for June 29 through July 1, 2026, at the Hyatt Regency Tamaya Resort and Spa. The two-and-a-half-day event is expected to host approximately 450 attendees and will feature national speakers offering best practices for addressing victimization across the state. The Governor will deliver opening remarks, and Attorney General Raúl Torres is also confirmed to attend. Director Zubia acknowledged his team, particularly the administrative staff, for their significant efforts in organizing the conference and invited Commission members to attend.

Business

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

Director Zubia reported on personnel updates, including the introduction of Ms. Melissa Santistevan as VAWA Grants Administrator.

Director Zubia reported that there are no new updates regarding VOCA Assistance grants. The agency is in the process of closing out several federal VOCA grants and completing required Performance Measurement Tool (PMT) reports, which are expected to be submitted on time. On the other hand, staff is currently completing the VOCA Victim Compensation Certification (VCC) form, which is due to our Program Manager at the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) this week. The data collected through this certification is used by OVC to calculate allocations for VOCA-eligible crime victim compensation programs.

Ms. Santistevan reported that the VAWA request for proposal (RFP) is currently open, with a submission deadline of March 9, 2026. The Q&A period will be available until March 4, 2026. She also updated the Commission that a draft VAWA statewide implementation plan is being finalized and expected to be released to the stakeholder committee on Monday, March 2, 2026.

Director Zubia noted the lengthy process for the VAWA statewide implementation plan and recognized Ms. Santistevan for compliance with all rules and regulations. He then reminded the Commission of the agency's partnership with the New Mexico Sentencing Commission for data collection and stakeholder analysis. Additionally, he mentioned engaging a federal consultant for stakeholder facilitation and added perspective.

He also announced that the state appropriation RFP will be released on March 16, 2026. The funding will support sexual assault services, human trafficking services, victim rights, and direct legal representation. The RFP will also include the solicitation of approximately \$1.66 million in additional state appropriations that CVRC will receive, with \$300,000 through GRO funds, to be primarily allocated to sexual assault services and domestic violence.

Status Report on HB206

Director Zubia reported that HB206, which would provide financial compensation to victims of simple assault, simple battery, criminal sexual contact of an adult, and robbery with a deadly weapon, passed unanimously in the House after clearing two subcommittees. However, the bill was referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee, where it was not scheduled for a hearing and did not advance. He stated that the agency plans to reassess its strategy and potentially reintroduce the legislation in the next session.

Executive Session

At 10:24 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 Member Rogers, yes, Commission Member Dr. Brown, yes.

At 10:36 a.m. Commission Chair Karst made a motion to exit from 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 Member Rogers, yes, Commission Member Dr. Brown, yes.

Action on Item Discussed in Executive Session (Voting Item)

Claim # 251553

Claim # 260038

Commission Meeting February 26, 2026

Director Zubia asked the Commission Members for a motion on claim #251553 to deny or approve. No action taken by the Commission Members.

Director Zubia asked the Commission Members for a motion on claim #260038 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 Member Rogers, approve, Commission Member Dr. Brown, approve.

The next Commission meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, March 26, 2026, 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 10:39 a.m., Commission Chair Karst adjourned the February 26, 2026 Commission meeting.

APPROVED:  DATE: 3/26/2026
Commission Chair Karst