

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
CRIME VICTIMS REPARATION COMMISSION

MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM
GOVERNOR



FRANK ZUBIA
DIRECTOR

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

March 26, 2026, Commission Meeting Minutes

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

Meeting Called to Order

On March 26, 2026, Commission Chair Karst called the January meeting of the New Mexico Crime Victims Reparation Commission to order at 10:03 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)
Sheriff Kim Stewart, Commission Vice Chair (Virtual)

The following NMCVRC staff members were present:

Frank Zubia, Director
Donna Richmond, Grant Bureau Chief
Jacqueline Sanchez, Compensation Bureau Chief
Asher Vigil, State Investigator
Debra Yepa, State Investigator (Virtual)
Leslie Valenzuela, State Investigator (Virtual)
Kristina Escamilla, Administrative Secretary
Melissa Santiestevan, VAWA Grant Administrator

The following members of the public were in attendance:

Chris Harrington, NM Department of Justice
Scott Sanchez, LFC Analyst (Virtual)

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 Dr. Brown 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 Dr. Brown, yes, Commission Vice Chair Stewart, yes.

Review and Approval of February 26, 2026, Commission Meeting Minutes

Commission Chair Karst and Commission Members reviewed the Commission meeting minutes for February 26, 2026. Commission Chair Karst asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Commission Member Dr. Brown 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 Dr. Brown, yes, Commission Vice Chair Stewart, yes.

Public Comment

No public comment

Agency Financial Report

Director Zubia reported to the Chair and members of the Commission on the current budget status. He explained that it typically takes the Department of Corrections approximately 45 to 60 days to receive payments, and as of the meeting date, payment for February had not yet been received. Despite this delay, Director Zubia noted that revenues remain generally on target. However, at the current funding rate, the program is not expected to break even, indicating an anticipated shortfall. He explained that this ongoing gap is why the agency continues to seek additional appropriations from the legislature for the compensation fund, given the limited incoming revenue.

He stated that FY2026 expenditures are lower than last year, with a projected year-end balance of approximately \$468,000 despite fluctuating weekly batch payments. Overall, the program is in a stable financial position and expects to carry forward a positive balance.

He also noted that the FY2025 single audit has been completed, certified, and submitted, and the agency is awaiting a response.

Below are the payments received for the period of July 1, 2025 to March 12, 2026, by category:

Restitution: \$40,824

Corrections: \$265,105

Civil Settlement: \$12,994

Penalty Assessment: \$2,410

Total Received: \$321,333

New Business

House Memorial 25

Director Zubia presented House Memorial 25 under New Business, recognizing victims of violent crime and honoring their families. With approval from the Chair, he read the memorial into the record, highlighting the importance of remembering victims, acknowledging the impact of violent crime on families and communities, and recognizing the contributions of survivors. The memorial affirms New Mexico's solidarity with affected families and calls for honoring victims in a way that ensures their legacies inspire peace, support, and justice.

State of New Mexico Crime Victims Reparation Commission 2026-2029 Strategic Implementation Plan (Voting Item)

Ms. Richmond introduced the Grants Department's strategic plan. She noted it had been previously shared and was still in progress. She explained it was developed to meet requirements under the Violence Against Women Act. She then deferred to Ms. Santistevan to present further details.

Ms. Santistevan explained that the strategic implementation plan fulfills VAWA Award requirements. It also serves as a guiding framework for CVRC's funding and activities. She noted the plan has been in development for an extended period. Formal work began earlier this year.

She described a process that included stakeholder meetings, a statewide survey, and regional outreach using the Department of Health's regional mapping. Seven in-person meetings and one virtual session were held to gather input, with a strong emphasis on engaging tribal communities, particularly in the Northwest.

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She stated that the collected data was analyzed with the support of the consultant and the New Mexico Sentencing Commission, and the results were compiled into the final report presented to the Commission.

Commission Member Dr. Brown 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 Dr. Brown, yes, Commission Vice Chair Stewart, yes.

Business

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

Ms. Richmond reported that five state Requests for Proposals (RFPs) were released and are available on the agency's website covering Victim's Rights, Human Trafficking, Sexual Assault Services, Civil Legal Services, and Comprehensive Victim Services. She noted that the VAWA STOP RFP has closed and is under review, while the VAWA Sexual Services Provider RFP remains open until April 8th, 2026. She added that the implementation plan guides strategic allocation of funding based on identified priorities.

Executive Session

At 10:29 a.m. Commission Chair Karst asked for a motion to enter Executive Session. Commission Member Dr. Brown made the motion to approve, and Commission Vice Chair Stewart seconded the motion.

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

At 10:50 a.m. Commission Chair Karst made a motion to exit from Executive Session. Commission Member Dr. Brown made the motion to approve, and Commission Vice Chair Stewart seconded the motion.

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

Action on Item Discussed in Executive Session (Voting Item)

Claim # 262163

Director Zubia asked the Commission Members for a motion on claim #262163 to deny or approve. Commission Members voted unanimously to approve restricted therapy/counseling.

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

The next Commission meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, April 23, 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 10:55 a.m., Commission Chair Karst adjourned the March 26, 2026 Commission meeting.

APPROVED: _____

Commission Chair Karst

DATE: 4/30/2026