

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
CRIME VICTIMS REPARATION COMMISSION

MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM
GOVERNOR



FRANK ZUBIA
DIRECTOR

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

April 30, 2026, Commission Meeting Minutes

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

Meeting Called to Order

On April 30, 2026, Commission Chair Karst called the April 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)
Sheriff Kim Stewart, Commission Vice Chair (Virtual)

The following NMCVRC staff members were present:

Frank Zubia, Director
Cindy Mok, Chief Financial Officer (Virtual)
Donna Richmond, Grant Bureau Chief
Rebecca Duran, State Investigator Supervisor
Debra Yepa, State Investigator (Virtual)
Kristina Escamilla, Administrative Secretary
Melissa Santistevan, VAWA Grant Administrator

The following members of the public were in attendance:

Eduardo Ugarte II, NM Assistant Attorney General

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 Vice Chair Stewart 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 Dr. Brown, yes.

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

Commission Chair Karst and Commission Members reviewed the Commission meeting minutes for March 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 Vice Chair Stewart, yes, Commission Member Dr. Brown, yes.

Public Comment

No public comment was received.

Agency Financial Report

Ms. Mok began with an update on the Crime Victim Fund budget status. As of the report date, the Fund had received slightly over \$400,000 in inmate wages and restitution. She noted that the March payment from the Department of Corrections was expected to be received soon.

Ms. Mok reported that over \$2.3 million in victim payments has been paid to date, with approximately \$460,000 expected to carry over into the next fiscal year. She stated that the FY2027 budget is being finalized, is due May 1, and has no updates. She will follow up with the Commission Chair regarding a memo and certification requiring signatures, and she has concluded her financial update.

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

Restitution: \$43,716

Corrections: \$341,059

Civil Settlement: \$12,994

Penalty Assessment: \$2,465

Total Received: \$400,234

New Business

Discussion and Consideration of Security Camera Assistance for Enumerated Crimes

Director Zubia presented an item to the Commission for consideration to expand the use of security cameras as a safety measure for victims of all enumerated crimes. He noted that current policy limits this assistance to specific crimes such as domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, certain homicides, and some child abuse cases. Due to increasing requests outside those categories, staff are seeking flexibility to provide security cameras on a case-by-case basis when appropriate.

Ms. Duran supported expanding eligibility for security devices, emphasizing that they are a more cost-effective alternative to rent and relocation, and that they provide victims with a sense of safety during traumatic times. She noted that expanding access to all enumerated crimes would enhance a victim-centered approach and allow emergency funds to be reserved for more urgent needs.

Echoing these points, Director Zubia reiterated that security devices have been funded through emergency assistance funds. These funds have exceeded \$300,000 in spending. He explained that staff are seeking to shift these expenses, along with others, into the compensation program. This change will help better manage costs and preserve emergency assistance resources.

Commission Vice Chair Stewart 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 Dr. Brown, yes.

Business

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

STOP VAWA FY2027 Preliminary Award Recommendations (Voting Item)

Commission Meeting April 30, 2026

Ms. Santistevan reported that 40 applications were received for the FY2027 STOP VAWA funding cycle, including 2 continuation and 14 new applications. Of the new submissions, 8 were recommended by the review committee for preliminary approval. A list of all recommended awards was provided in the meeting packet.

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

VAWA SASP FY2027 Preliminary Award Recommendations (Voting Item)

Ms. Santistevan presented the FY2027 SASP RFP, noting that one continuation proposal was received and recommended for approval by the review committee, totaling \$819,151.00. She requested the Commission's support for the proposal.

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.

Executive Session

At 10:33 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 Vice Chair Stewart, yes, Commission Member Dr. Brown, yes.

At 10:37 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 Vice Chair Stewart, yes, Commission Member Dr. Brown, yes.

Action on Item Discussed in Executive Session (Voting Item)

Claim #251535

Director Zubia asked the Commission Members for a motion on Claim #251535 to deny or approve. Commission

Following this request, Commission Members voted unanimously to approve the Claim.

A roll call vote confirmed all in favor: Commission Chair Karst approved, Commission Vice Chair Stewart approved, and Commission Member Dr. Brown approved.

The next Commission meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, May 28, 2026, at 10:00 a.m., at the New Mexico Crime Victims Reparation Commission, 6200 Uptown Blvd. NE, Suite 210, in Albuquerque, NM, in the conference room.

Adjourn

At 10:41 a.m., Commission Chair Karst adjourned the April 26, 2026 Commission meeting.

APPROVED:  DATE: 5/28/26
Commission Chair Karst