

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 28, 2026, Commission Meeting Minutes

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

Meeting Called to Order

On May 28, 2026, Commission Chair Karst called the May meeting of the New Mexico Crime Victims Reparation Commission to order at 10:02a.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)
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 (Virtual)
Donna Richmond, Grant Bureau Chief (Virtual)
Rebecca Duran, State Investigator Supervisor
Debra Yepa, State Investigator (Virtual)
Asher Vigil, State Investigator
Kristina Escamilla, Administrative Secretary
Melissa Santiestevan, VAWA Grant Administrator

The following members of the public were in attendance:

Jennifer Gomez
Jimmy Sab
Amy Kendrick, Executive Director of S.A.F.E. House (Virtual)
David River, NM Coalition Against Domestic Violence NMCADV (Virtual)
Diego Jimenez, Finance Committee (Virtual)
Kristina Wood-Hagner, NMCASP (Virtual)
Mary Ebinger, Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) (Virtual)
MaryEllen Garcia, Chief Executive Officer, NM Coalition Against Domestic Violence NMCADV (Virtual)
Joella Montoya, Executive Director, Community Against Violence
Sara Yvonne "Bonnie" Escobar, Executive Director of Enlace Comunitario (Virtual)
Teresa Armendariz, Deputy Director of Finance & Operations, NMCASP (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 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.

Review and Approval of April 30, 2026, Commission Meeting Minutes

Commission Chair Karst and Commission Members reviewed the Commission meeting minutes for April 30, 2026. 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 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.

Public Comment

Ms. Jennifer Gomez testified at the Commission appeal hearing regarding the impact of a December 20, 2025, head-on collision. She described a medical history of multiple spinal surgeries, chronic infections, and a medically determined lifetime disability. Nevertheless, she returned to full-time work as an Uber driver after leaving disability benefits to maintain independence.

She reported no prior cervical spine symptoms. The DUI collision caused severe cervical injuries—spinal stenosis and nerve compression—resulting in chronic pain, numbness, and loss of safe driving ability. She also reported a left shoulder tear requiring ongoing treatment and severe PTSD that now makes vehicle travel difficult. She explained further that spinal surgery is medically necessary but too high-risk due to her infection history, making her disability permanent. She requested recognition of the full functional and economic impact of her injuries in her appeal.

Mary Ellen Garcia, Executive Director of NMCADV, addressed the Commission with Joella Montoya (NMCADV Chair), Bonnie Escobar (NMCADV Vice Chair), and David River (Deputy Director of Operations). They focused on three key concerns: excessive documentation for reimbursement requests, the administrative burden on service providers, and the potential delay in victim services.

NMCADV representatives further stated they believed certain documentation requests exceeded standard accounting practices and were inconsistent with methodologies commonly utilized by service providers, auditors, and federal grant recipients. Concerns were raised regarding reimbursement delays, accounting methodologies, salary allocation practices, payroll documentation requirements, and the reconciliation of expenses in QuickBooks.

NMCADV representatives indicated that independent audits and CPA reviews had not found deficiencies in their accounting practices. They reported that service providers statewide were concerned about the administrative burden of CVRC grant administration, which may deter some from pursuing grant opportunities due to the time and resources required.

Commission Chair and Members focused on evaluating accounting controls, reimbursement documentation, grant monitoring, payroll records, and organizational policies. They raised specific questions about electronic timesheet approvals, policy updates, internal controls, and alignment between written policies and actual practices.

Director Zubia and staff explained CVRC's oversight responsibilities, stating that documentation ensures compliance with federal and state requirements.

CVRC staff advised that the agency does not require or mandate that subrecipients use a specific accounting system or template provided by the agency, but they must be able to verify expenditures through adequate source documentation. Staff further stated that questions regarding reimbursement requests were based on identified discrepancies that required clarification before payment could be processed.

Discussion also addressed prior meetings between CVRC and NMCADV leadership. CVRC obtained guidance from the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) and the Grants Financial Management Division regarding documents and information requested by CVRC from NMCADV and received written responses from these federal agencies, allowing CVRC to request additional information and source documentation as administrators of the federal funds. In addition, CVRC solicited the engagement of an independent consultant, a subject-matter expert with extensive federal grant administration experience, to mediate a resolution for both organizations regarding outstanding reimbursement concerns. NMCADV declined the offer.

NMCADV representatives urged collaboration, streamlined grant monitoring, and reduced administrative work for victim service providers and requested ongoing dialogue with Commission leadership to improve processes and achieve long-term solutions.

Commission Members stressed accountability for public funds and the need for victim service providers to deliver statewide services effectively. Both parties agreed to collaborate in resolving the remaining issues.

Agency Financial Report

Ms. Mok reported on the Crime Victim Funds budget, noting that over \$444,000 has been received in inmate wages and restitution, with an additional April payment from the Department of Corrections expected soon.

Continuing her report, Ms. Mok addressed the budget position for victim payments, stating that approximately \$2.4 million in interim payments had been made to date. She noted that, based on current payout rates, an estimated \$436,000 would remain and be carried over into the next fiscal year.

Following this, Director Zubia recognized Ms. Mok for her work in preparing and submitting the agency budget to leadership, the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC), and the Department of Finance and Administration (DFA). He noted the challenges involved in the process and expressed appreciation for her efforts and dedication.

Below are the payments received for the period of July 1, 2025 to May 13, 2026, by category:

Restitution: \$48,683

Corrections: \$380,012

Civil Settlement: \$12,994

Penalty Assessment: \$2,465

Total Received: \$444,154

New Business

National Missing and Unidentified Persons Conference

Commission Co-Chair, Sheriff Kim Stewart reported that she and Commission Chair Karst attended a National Missing and Unidentified Persons Conference. The event provided valuable insights into reporting challenges in indigenous communities and advancements in interagency collaboration. She noted progress made through technology. She suggested the Commission consider a statewide initiative during National Missing Persons Month. The purpose would be to increase awareness of the Commission's work, support missing persons efforts, and strengthen partnerships with law enforcement agencies across New Mexico. She offered to help develop a proposal for future consideration.

Commission Chair Karst discussed the benefits of Rapid DNA technology. He noted that it can process DNA samples in about 90 minutes. It also quickly identifies potential matches through FBI databases. He said the

technology has significantly improved missing persons investigations, though legal challenges related to its use may exist in New Mexico. He described the conference as informative and valuable. It provided opportunities to learn about emerging practices and to build professional networks.

Discussion and Possible Action: NMCADV

Director Zubia stated that the item pertained to any internal Commission discussions regarding the New Mexico Coalition Against Domestic Violence. No additional comments were provided.

Business

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

STOP VAWA FY2027 Final Award Recommendation (Voting Item)

Ms. Richmond introduced the VAWA award recommendations, noted that they had been reviewed by the peer review committee, and turned the presentation over to VAWA Grant Administrator Ms. Santistevan for further details.

Ms. Santistevan presented the FY2027 STOP VAWA RFP recommendations, noting that 40 applications were received (26 continuation and 14 new). Of the new applications, 8 were recommended by the Proposal Review Committee for preliminary approval. A list of all recommended awards was included in the meeting packet.

Director Zubia stated that the item was a voting matter and noted that the preliminary STOP VAWA FY2027 award recommendations had been presented at the April meeting. He explained that the recommendations before the Commission were the final award recommendations and that, upon approval, award letters would be issued the following day with a July 1, 2026, start date.

Commission Vice Chair Stewart made the motion to approve accept the FY2027 STOP VAWA continuation funds and Commission Member Rogers seconded the motion. Commission Member Rogers submitted an amended motion regarding FY2027 STOP funding awards to approve all funding recommendations, with the exception of the awards to the New Mexico Coalition Against Domestic Violence. Commission Vice Chair Stewart seconded the motion. Director Zubia, listed the four grants which would be eliminated from final approval.

Commission Member Rogers made the motion to approve the amended final award 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 FY2027 Final Award Recommendation (Voting Item)

Ms. Santistevan presented the FY2027 VAWA SASP, noting that one continuation proposal was received and recommended for approval by the review committee in the amount of \$819,151. She requested the Commission support for the proposal.

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 Vice Chair Stewart, yes, Commission Member Rogers, yes.

STATE Human Trafficking Services Preliminary Award Recommendation (Voting Item)

Ms. Richmond presented the FY2027 Human Trafficking Services Preliminary Services State Funding recommendations, reporting that 11 competitive applications were received. Due to limited funding and

requests exceeding available resources, three agencies were recommended for funding totaling \$285,000, while eight agencies were not recommended. She requested approval of the review committee's recommendations for the FY 2027 competitive Request for Proposals (RFP) for Human Trafficking Services.

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 Vice Chair Stewart, yes, Commission Member Rogers, yes.

STATE New Mexico Victims' Rights Preliminary Award Recommendation (Voting Item)

Ms. Richmond presented the FY2027 New Mexico Victims' Rights State Funding recommendations and requested the Commission's support of the Peer Review Committee's recommendations regarding the competitive funding awards under the solicitation.

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.

STATE Direct Civil Legal Representation Preliminary Award Recommendation (Voting Item)

Ms. Richmond presented the Commission's support of the Peer Review Committee's recommendations regarding the competitive Request for Proposals under the Direct Civil Legal Representation State Funding program for FY2027.

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 Vice Chair Stewart, yes, Commission Member Rogers, yes.

STATE Comprehensive Victim Services Preliminary Award Recommendation (Voting Item)

Ms. Richmond reported that four applications were received under the FY2027 Comprehensive Victim Services Funding Solicitation. Based on the peer review committee's recommendations, two agencies were not recommended for funding. Ms. Richmond requested Commission approval of the committee's recommendations.

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.

STATE Sexual Assault Services Preliminary Award Recommendation (Voting Item)

Ms. Richmond reported that 28 applications were received under the FY2027 Sexual Assault Services State Funding Solicitation. Six agencies were not recommended for funding following the peer review process. Ms. Richmond requested Commission approval of the peer review committee's funding recommendations.

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

Commission Meeting May 28, 2026

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

Executive Session

At 11:57 a.m. Commission Chair Karst asked for a motion to enter Executive Session. Commission Member Rogers 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 Rogers, yes.

At 12:16 p.m. Commission Chair Karst made a motion to exit from Executive Session. Commission Member Rogers 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 Rogers, yes.

Action on Item Discussed in Executive Session (Voting Item)

Claim # 262029

Commission Chair Karst made a motion to approve claim # 262029. Commission Member Rogers 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 Rogers, yes.

Director Zubia asked the Commission Members for a motion on claim #262029 to deny or approve. Commission Members voted unanimously to approve this claim.

The next Commission meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, June 25, 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 12:18 p.m., Commission Chair Karst adjourned the May 28, 2026 Commission meeting.

APPROVED:  DATE: 6/25/26
Commission Chair Karst