

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
CRIME VICTIMS REPARATION COMMISSION

MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM
GOVERNOR



FRANK ZUBIA
DIRECTOR

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

June 25, 2026 Commission Meeting Minutes

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

Meeting Called to Order

On June 25, 2026, Commission Chair Karst called the June 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)
Cody Rogers, Commission Member (Virtual)

The following NMCVRC staff members were present:

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

The following members of the public were in attendance:

Eduardo Ugarte II, NM Assistant Attorney General
Rebecca Girardet, MD UNM Para Los Niños
Leslie Strickler, DO, FAAP UNM Para Los Niños
Debbie Johnson, President & CEO, TenderLove Community Center (TLCC) (Virtual)
Lacey Guinn, Associate Director, SAS NWNM (Virtual)
Linda Atkinson, Executive Director, DWI Resource Center & Victims' Rights (Virtual)
Eleana Butler, Executive Director, SAS NWNM (Virtual)
Rachel Cox, Deputy Director, NMCSAP (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 Vice Chair Sheriff 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 Vice Chair Sheriff Stewart, yes. Commission Chair Karst, yes, Commission Member Rogers, yes, Commission Member Dr. Brown, yes.

Review and Approval of May 28, 2026, Commission Meeting Minutes

Commission Chair Karst and Commission Members reviewed the Commission meeting minutes for May 28, 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 Sheriff 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 Sheriff Stewart, yes, Commission Member Rogers, yes, Commission Member Dr. Brown, yes.

Public Comment

Director Zubia informed the Commission that six members of the public wanted to speak about the Sexual Assault Service Provider Request for Proposals (RFP No. 27-780-P707-00100). He said the protest letters were available for review and recommended that the speakers be heard in the order listed. He then invited Ms. Linda Atkinson, Executive Director of the DWI Resource Center and the New Mexico Victims' Rights Project, to provide her public comment.

Ms. Atkinson presented concerns from a protest letter regarding the RFP process. She cited a lack of clarity on proposal strengths and weaknesses and called for clearer scoring and review criteria. She stated the loss of the SASP grant would close the Las Cruces office and reduce staff hours, as the organization could not absorb a \$60,000 funding reduction. She requested that the Commission reconsider its decision.

Ms. Butler provided feedback on the RFP process, noting that the character limit restricted a full description of service needs and expressing concern that FY27 funding did not reflect anticipated increases from recent legislative appropriations. She stated that the distribution of recurring and non-recurring funds could negatively impact services, including the SANE program capacity. Ms. Butler also raised concerns about transparency and communication regarding how additional legislative funding would be allocated, emphasizing that clearer information would have better informed agency planning and expectations.

Ms. Johnson appealed the recommendation regarding her organization's proposal and noted this was their first application for a sexual assault-specific contract, though they have provided related services through other programs. She highlighted the staff's trauma-informed approach and emphasized that losing funding would eliminate a program staff position. She affirmed the organization's commitment to comprehensive, long-term client support—including up to two years of follow-up service—and thanked the Commission for its consideration.

Ms. Girardet thanked the Commission for the opportunity to speak and appealed the funding recommendation, stating her organization experienced a 32 percent reduction in recurring funding, which would negatively affect services for children who have experienced sexual abuse. She stressed that prior funding improved access to trauma-focused therapy and that reductions would limit the provision of critical services.

Ms. Strickler stated that ongoing financial challenges in healthcare and institutional budget reductions have restricted the organization's ability to offset funding deficits. Traditional funding sources continue to decline.

Ms. Girardet expressed appreciation for CVRC's longstanding support and explained that the unexpected funding reduction would require the organization to scale back programs developed based on previous funding levels.

Director Zubia informed the Commission that public comments on the protest letters for the Sexual Assault Services RFP (RFP No. 27-780-P707-00100) have concluded. He also advised that Ms. Debbie Johnson of

TenderLove Community Center submitted a protest letter regarding the Human Trafficking Services RFP (RFP No. 27-780-P707-00200).

Ms. Johnson asked the Commission to reconsider the proposal and avoid service interruptions. She noted that about half of the transitional housing clients are survivors of human trafficking from diverse, vulnerable backgrounds. She stressed the need to support those currently receiving services.

Commission Chair Karst thanked the participants for attending, presenting comments, and participating in the protest process. He noted that Commission staff would provide information on next steps. He expressed appreciation for the organization's continued commitment to serving victims in New Mexico.

Ms. Richmond thanked service providers for their work. She encouraged eligible organizations—especially those not funded through state appropriations—to apply for the FY27 VOCA Competitive Funding Opportunity. She emphasized the importance of sustaining core victim services and noted this would be the first competitive VOCA funding cycle in four years.

Director Zubia explained that limited state funds forced the Peer Review Committee to make difficult choices. He advised organizations to apply for the upcoming VOCA RFP. Federal funding, he noted, could help offset shortfalls and offer up to four years of support to eligible organizations.

Agency Financial Report

Ms. Mok presented the Agency Financial Report. She reported that, as of June 15, 2026, the Commission had approved approximately \$2.8 million in victim compensation payments. Based on current spending trends, the Commission projects an estimated remaining budget balance of \$426,772 to be carried forward into the next fiscal year.

Ms. Mok also reported that the Commission had received approximately \$490,000 in restitution and inmate wage collections. She noted that the May 2026 inmate wage payment from the Corrections Department had not yet been received and was therefore not reflected in the current Crime Victims Fund balance.

Ms. Mok concluded by informing the Commission that the Administration Division is in the process of closing out Fiscal Year 2026 and preparing for Fiscal Year 2027. She advised that updated financial information and final year-end reports will be presented at a future Commission meeting. Ms. Mok then concluded her financial report.

Below are the payments received for the period of July 1, 2025, to June 15, 2026, by category:

Restitution: \$55,619

Corrections: \$418,243

Civil Settlement: \$12,994

Penalty Assessment: \$2,465

Total Received: \$489,320

Director Zubia recognized Ms. Mok and the Administration Division for their dedication and outstanding work following the agency auditor's retirement at the end of 2025. He noted that Ms. Mok has assumed additional responsibilities while the agency works to fill the vacant position and commended the department for ensuring continued financial operations and victim services. He also acknowledged the team's efforts in preparing for the upcoming state audit.

New Business

Advocacy In Action Conference, Monday, June 29th-Wednesday, July 1, 2026, Hyatt Regency Tamaya Resort and Spa, Santa Ana Pueblo, NM

Director Zubia announced that the Advocacy In Action Conference will be held from June 29 to July 1 at the Hyatt Regency Tamaya Resort & Spa in Santa Ana Pueblo. He invited Commission members to attend all or

part of the conference. He reported that staff were finalizing event preparations and said that 481 attendees had registered. Staff handled conference logistics, including hotel reservations and attendee accommodations. He expressed confidence that preparations would be completed before the event began.

Proposed Commission Meeting for Thursday, July 23rd, 2026, at 10:00 am

Director Zubia proposed holding a July Commission meeting to address pending VAWA solicitations and funding allocations. He recommended replacing the traditionally scheduled October meeting with the July meeting while maintaining the September meeting for budget approval.

Commission Member Dr. Brown 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 Sheriff Stewart, yes, Commission Member Rogers, yes, Commission Member Dr. Brown, yes.

Business

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

Federal Funding Opportunities

Ms. Richmond informed the Commission that the federal VOCA, VAWA STOP, and VAWA SASP funding opportunities have been released with short application timelines and stated that staff are preparing the applications for timely submission.

Recommendations for STATE Funding

Ms. Richmond presented the FY27 Human Trafficking Services State Funding recommendations for final approval, noting that the Commission had previously granted preliminary approval, and requested a motion to approve the Peer Review Committee's recommendations.

STATE Human Trafficking Services Final Award Recommendation (Voting Item)

Commission Member Rogers made the motion to approve and Commission Vice Chair Sheriff 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 Sheriff Stewart, yes, Commission Member Rogers, yes, Commission Member Dr. Brown, yes.

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

Commission Member Dr. Brown 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 Sheriff Stewart, yes, Commission Member Rogers, yes, Commission Member Dr. Brown, yes.

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

Commission Member Rogers made the motion to approve and Commission Vice Chair Sheriff 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 Sheriff Stewart, yes, Commission Member Rogers, yes, Commission Member Dr. Brown, yes.

STATE Comprehensive Victim Services Final Award Recommendation (Voting Item)

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

Commission Meeting June 25, 2026

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

STATE Sexual Assault Services Final Award Recommendation (Voting Item)

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

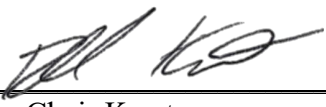
A roll call vote of the Commission was as follows: Commission Chair Karst, yes, Commission Vice Chair Sheriff Stewart, yes, Commission Member Rogers, yes, Commission Member Dr. Brown, yes.

Executive Session

There were no executive session items.

Adjourn

At 10:46 a.m., Commission Chair Karst adjourned the June 25, 2026 Commission meeting.

APPROVED:  DATE: 7/30/2026
Commission Chair Karst