

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
CRIME VICTIMS REPARATION COMMISSION

MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM
GOVERNOR



FRANK ZUBIA
DIRECTOR

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
CRIME VICTIMS REPARATION COMMISSION-(NMCVRC)
September 25, 2025, Commission Meeting Minutes
6200 Uptown Blvd. NE Suite #210
Albuquerque, NM 87110

Meeting Called to Order

On September 25, 2025, Commission Chair Karst called the August 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 and acknowledged those who are participating in person and virtually.

The following Commission Members were present:

David Karst, Commission Chair (Virtual)
Cody Rogers, 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
Donna Richmond, Grants Bureau Chief (Virtual)
Jacqueline Sanchez, Compensation Bureau Chief
Rebecca Duran, State Investigator Supervisor
Debra Yepa, State Investigator
Leslie Valenzuela, State Investigator (Virtual)
Kristina Escamilla, Administrative Secretary

The following members of the public were in attendance:

Rebecca Guay, DOJ Attorney (Virtual)

Review Agenda

Commission Chair Karst and the Commission Members reviewed the agenda. This amendment involved removing item 6a, the CVRC Annual Report, and Executive Session voting item #251553 from the agenda. Commission Chair Karst asked for a motion to approve. 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.

Review and Approval of August 28, 2025, Commission Meeting Minutes

Commission Chair Karst and Commission Members reviewed the Commission meeting minutes for August 28, 2025. 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 Vice Chair Stewart, Yes, Commission Member Rogers, yes.

Public Comment

No public comment

Agency Financial Report

Ms. Mok provided an update on the status of the FY2026 Victim Payment Budget. She reported that \$703,647 in victim payments have been approved and paid out. The current payout rate of victim payments is sufficient to cover expenses for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Ms. Mok presented the Crime Victim Fund Budget Status Report to the Commission and informed that CVRC received \$104,529 for the month of August. Below is the payment received for the period of July 1, 2024, through September 17, 2025, by category:

Restitution: \$7,746

Corrections: \$83,191

Civil Settlement: \$12,421

Penalty Assessment: \$1,170

Total Received: \$104,529

Director Zubia reported that CVRC continues to work with the Administrative Office of the Courts regarding the receipt of small amounts of penalty assessments, which were officially terminated as of July 1, 2024. He noted that while the process remains ongoing, any funds received are reutilized to support victims of crime.

New Business**CVRC Las Cruces**

Ms. Richmond provided an update regarding the Las Cruces office. She reported that the office experienced an incident involving unauthorized visitors in the building during late-night hours, though nothing was taken and only minor cleaning was required. Staff have since notified management that CVRC offices should not be accessed when staff are not present. She further reported that the Las Cruces staff will be relocating to a larger, more accommodating office within the same building. This move will help alleviate space limitations and operational challenges, such as internet disruptions.

Director Zubia added that the Las Cruces office was recently vandalized due to the incident reported by Ms. Richmond, resulting in minor disruptions, including tampered outreach materials and supplies. Surveillance cameras captured the incident, and the property manager has since terminated the cleaning crew responsible for after-hours access. CVRC has advised that the future cleaning staff not be given office keys, with staff assuming responsibility for their own cleaning and trash removal. Director Zubia emphasized that no victim or survivor information was compromised, and new safety protocols have been implemented to ensure all compensation files are secured daily.

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

Ms. Richmond reported that all federal VOCA grants for FY 2026 have been executed, and funding will begin on October 1st. She noted that State and VAWA funding are underway, and the job posting for the VAWA Grant Administrator position has been closed, with applications received and interviews in progress.

FFY2025 VOCA Award Notification (Assistance & Compensation)

Director Zubia reported that acceptance of the FY2025 VOCA assistance and compensation awards has been delayed due to new federal special conditions related to immigration. He noted that New Mexico is one of 21

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states engaged in a civil suit against the federal administration, and CVRC is awaiting further direction from the New Mexico Department of Justice.

Implementation Plan 2026-2029

Ms. Richmond reported that a new implementation plan to guide funding for FY2026-FY2029 is underway. She noted that statewide surveys are being finalized, with community outreach planned for late 2025, and the draft plan scheduled to be presented to the Commission for approval in April 2026.

Director Zubia reported that CVRC is collaborating with the New Mexico Statistical Analysis Center at UNM and former OVC grant manager Keri Lopher to develop the 2026-2029 strategic implementation plan. He emphasized that the plan serves as both a roadmap for funding community needs and a requirement for the VAWA grant, commending Ms. Richmond for leading this work in the absence of a VAWA grant administrator.

VAWA Prosecution Work Group

Ms. Richmond reported on the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) prosecution working group, noting its goal to establish a model policy for prosecuting domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and strangulation cases. She explained that CVRC is partnering with Equitos to provide both the policy and related training for prosecutors and law enforcement, with implementation required for the Third and Sixth Judicial District Attorney's Offices and recommended statewide.

Director Zubia reported that CVRC is partnering with the Sexual Assault Coalition and augmenting its contract to engage three retired prosecutors who will assist in developing protocols and conducting training. He emphasized that this effort, in partnership with Equitos, is part of ongoing initiatives to enhance prosecutorial skills statewide, and he noted the Commission will be kept informed of future developments.

Action on Item Discussed in Executive Session

No items were discussed

The next Commission meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, October 23, 2025, 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 10:31 a.m., Commission Chair Karst adjourned the September 25th, 2025 Commission meeting.

APPROVED:  Signed by: _____ DATE: 9/9/2026
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Commission Chair Karst