

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 30, 2025, Emergency Commission Meeting Minutes

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

Meeting Called to Order

On June 30, 2025, Commission Chair Karst called the June 30th, Emergency Commission meeting of the New Mexico Crime Victims Reparation Commission to order at 4:05 p.m.

Commission Chair Karst announced the names of the Commission members and acknowledged those who were participating remotely. Information for attending remotely is posted on the CVRC website.

The following Commission Members were present virtually:

David Karst, Commission Chair
Cody Rogers, Commission Member
Dr. Randall Brown, M.D., Commission Member
Sheriff Kim Stewart, Commission Vice Chair

The following NMCVRC staff members were present virtually:

Frank Zubia, Director
Cindy Mok, Chief Financial Officer
Donna Richmond, Grants Bureau Chief
Jacqueline Sanchez, Compensation Bureau Chief
Debra Yepa, State Investigator
Leslie Valenzuela, State Investigator
Kristina Escamilla, Administrative Secretary

The following members of the public were in attendance virtually:

Eduardo Ugarte II, Assistant NM Attorney
MaryEllen Garcia, CEO NMCADV
Mica Reagan NMCADV
Natasha Espana Chief Financial Officer NMCADV
Rachel Cox, NM Coalition of Sexual Assault
Estella Weitz, Executive Director Haven House
Alexandria Taylor, Executive Director NM Coalition of Sexual Assault
Amy Kendrick, Executive Director Safe House
Jan McCray, Chief Executive Officer Esperanza Shelter
Sara Yvonne "Bonnie" Escobar, Executive Director Enlace Comunitario
Dr. Michael DeBernardi, CEO The Life Link
Janese Little, Alt to Violence
Terri Pearce, NE Region Representative, Secretary NMCADV
Shawna Pruett
Melissa Tarazon Drug & Alcohol Counselor, MA, MAMFT, LADAC
Lynn Sanchez, MA, LPCC The Life Link

Review Agenda

Commission Chair Karst convened an emergency meeting to address time-sensitive issues regarding the recent RFP process and related protests, specifically RFP #26-780-P707-00100 for Sexual Assault Services & RFP #26780-P707-00700 for Domestic Violence Services. The meeting aimed to ensure compliance with procurement requirements and uphold the integrity of the RFP process while meeting the Commission's statutory obligations. Commission Chair Karst proceeded with reviewing and approving the agenda.

Commission Chair Karst and the Commission Board Members reviewed the agenda. Commission Chair Karst asked for a motion to approve. 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 Member Rogers, yes; Commission Member Dr. Brown, yes.

Public Comment

Dr. Michael DeBernardi addressed the commission regarding the denial of funding for The Life Link, a community-based mental health center specializing in human trafficking aftercare. He detailed the organization's long history of providing essential services, its compliance with grant requirements, and its critical role in supporting victims statewide.

Dr. DeBernardi expressed concern over significant funding cuts, which threaten the program's future, and requested insight into the review process to understand the denial. He sought potential avenues for reconsideration or alternative funding to sustain operations, emphasizing the critical need for these services in New Mexico.

MaryEllen Garcia, CEO of the New Mexico Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NMCADV), addressed the commission to express concerns about the funding allocation process. She noted that NMCADV submitted four letters of protest regarding funding decisions for survivor services, legal services, abuse intervention services, and children's services.

Ms. Garcia questioned how funding determinations were made, highlighting that many established providers adhering to survivor services standards did not receive funding. In contrast, some allocations were made to programs without a precise alignment to these standards. She emphasized the importance of transparency and collaboration to ensure future funding cycles reflect the scale of survivor needs in New Mexico. Ms. Garcia concluded by thanking the commission for their time.

Commission Chair Karst thanked the presenters for their input, assured them their questions would be addressed, and emphasized the importance of sustainability and scope in funding decisions.

Business**RFP #26-780-P707-00100 Sexual Assault Services (VOTING ITEM)**

Director Frank Zubia presented RFP #26-780-P707-00100 for sexual assault services to the Commission, highlighting the \$950,000 available against a total funding request of \$3,460,483. Resulting in a \$ 2,510,483. shortfall. He outlined allocations to organizations under the New Mexico Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs and noted a plan to address The Life Link's loss of federal funding. Director Zubia stood for questions from the Commission.

Sheriff Kim Stewart asked for clarification on the criteria used to evaluate RFP applications. Director Zubia explained that the review process considered RFP requirements, project components, and sustainability, with priority given to projects that could be supported within the one-year appropriation. He emphasized the importance of recurring funding for long-term sustainability and acknowledged the challenges of allocating limited resources and addressing immediate needs.

Commission Member Chair Karst made the motion to approve the recommendation made by the Peer review committee to stand as proposed, and Commission Sheriff Kim 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.

RFP #26-780-P-707-00700 Domestic Violence Services (VOTING ITEM)

Director Frank Zubia presented an overview of the current funding allocations related to the \$950,000 appropriation for domestic violence services. He referenced the spreadsheet showing which projects were supported and explained that due to limited funding, CVRC prioritized applications carefully. He noted that while the domestic violence coalition requested \$2,225,000, of which only \$1,975,000 was available, once the DOH funds are transferred to CVRC, it will result in some projects going unfunded.

Director Zubia stated that while CVRC attempted to fund as many projects as possible, specific applications were not supported due to significant issues that were not publicly discussed. He also acknowledged the receipt of protests related to each purpose area. He assured the Commission and presenters that CVRC would formally respond to concerns, including those about the peer review process.

Director Zubia concluded by recommending that the Commission either review each purpose area individually or consider all purpose areas together before proceeding to a final vote.

Commission Chair Kharst asked Director Zubia to clarify the delay in funding the items listed under item G, as reflected on the spreadsheet and demonstrated to the public, requesting an explanation of the ongoing issues with the Department of Health to help the Commission better understand why those items remain unfunded.

Director Frank Zubia provided an update on the delay in funding projects listed under item G on the spreadsheet. He explained that, unlike in previous years when the Department of Health (DOH) transferred funds directly to CVRC under a memorandum of agreement, the current DOH leadership has proposed a new process, which has delayed the transfer of funds. Under the proposed method, CVRC would need to submit invoices to DOH for reimbursement after receiving and processing invoices from subrecipients, a cycle that could take up to 90 days. Director Zubia emphasized that this delay is due to the lack of a formal plan, indicating that the matter is still in progress and not an immediate priority for DOH. He confirmed that once the funds are transferred, CVRC intends to fund the additional projects listed in Column G of the spreadsheet.

He also addressed concerns raised during the meeting regarding unmet needs in legal services, abuse intervention, and child services. Abuse intervention was not prioritized due to existing funding from CYFD. In contrast, child services were recognized as a high priority and would receive further support if additional funding is secured. Director Zubia stood for questions from the Commission.

Commission Member Sheriff, Stewart, sought clarification from Director Frank Zubia, asking whether the funding requests could be reevaluated if and when additional funding from the Department of Health becomes available, regardless of the timing within the fiscal year. She aimed to confirm that future consideration of the proposals was possible once the funds were received.

Director Frank Zubia explained that, rather than initiating a new request for proposal process, CVRC intends to amend and augment existing contracts with subrecipients if and when additional funding from the DOH becomes available. He noted that the DOH had proposed an October 1st start date for the initial financing, but CVRC advocated for a July 1st start to align with the state fiscal year. Director Zubia emphasized that this approach would allow for a more efficient and timely distribution of funds.

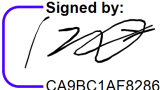
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Commission Member Chair Karst made the motion to approve the appropriation as proposed by the Peer Review Committee to stand, and Commission Sheriff Stewart seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Adjourn

At 4:51 p.m., Commission Chair Karst adjourned the June 30, 2025 Commission meeting.

APPROVED:  Signed by:
CA9BC1AF82864A8... DATE: 9/9/2026
Commission Chair Karst