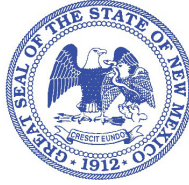


STATE OF NEW MEXICO
CRIME VICTIMS REPARATION COMMISSION

MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM
GOVERNOR



FRANK ZUBIA
DIRECTOR

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
CRIME VICTIMS REPARATION COMMISSION-(NMCVRC)
August 27, 2026, Commission Meeting Minutes
6200 Uptown Blvd. NE Suite #210
Albuquerque, NM 87110

Meeting Called to Order

On August 27, 2026, 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 and members of the public body attending the meeting, acknowledging those participating in person and virtually.

The following Commission Members were present:

David Karst, Commission Chair
Sheriff Kim Stewart, Commission Vice Chair (Virtual)
Cody Rogers, Commission Member (Virtual)
Randal Brown, Commission Member (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
Asher Vigil, State Investigator
Debra Yepa, State Investigator (Virtual)
Leslie Valenzuela, State Investigator (Virtual)
Anna Quintana, Compensation Management Analyst

The following members of the public were in attendance:

Eduardo Ugarte II, Assistant NM Attorney
Sarah Wintermute, RMD Attorney (Virtual)
Steve Shaner, Civil Attorney (Virtual)
Scott Sanchez, LFC Analyst (Virtual)

Review Agenda

Commission Chair Karst and the Commission Members reviewed the agenda. Commission Chair Karst asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Commission Vice Chair Stewart made the motion to approve, and Commission Member Rogers seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

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

Commission Chair Karst and Commission Members reviewed the Commission Meeting Minutes for July 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.

The Commission roll call vote 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 presented the first FY2027 Crime Victims Fund Budget Status Report to the Commission and reported that the Commission had received close to \$10,000 in restitution and inmate wage collections. She also noted that the Department of Corrections had not yet sent July inmate wage payments, so they were not reflected in the current balance. Therefore, the July balance presented is not final.

FY 2027 Crime Victims Fund - Budget Status

Payments received for the period of July 1, 2026, through August 17, 2026, by category:

Restitution: \$1,606

Corrections: \$0

Civil Settlement: \$7,670

Penalty Assessment: \$150

Total Received: \$9,426

Ms. Mok also provided the first FY27 Budget Position report for Victim Payments. As of August 17, the Commission has approved approximately \$321,000 in victim compensation payments. Based on the current payout, CVRC is in good standing in supporting the needs of crime victims across the state.

FY2028 Agency Budget Request**New Business**

Ms. Mok presented the FY2028 Budget Request for State General Appropriation. CVRC received guidance from the Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) that all executive agencies can request up to 3% of the state general fund appropriation for any necessary operating costs. CVRC will request approximately a 2% increase to absorb a position currently supported by federal funding and establish a new Grants Compliance and Control Officer position. She indicated that CVRC has experienced increased uncertainty and inconsistency in federal funding, while administering significantly greater levels of state appropriation. Including these positions in the state budget will help ensure CVRC's operational continuity, administrative capacity, and ongoing compliance.

Ms. Mok also requested \$3 million in recurring state funding for the statewide sexual assault services program. The request is based on a demonstrated funding gap identified through CVRC's recent Request for Proposals (RFP) process. She added that CVRC made approximately \$9.3 million available to sexual assault service providers through non-recurring state funding, which supported new projects, expanded SANE programs, and extended services in rural and underserved areas of New Mexico. The proposed funding would result in an overall 21% increase in State General Fund appropriations in CVRC's FY2028 budget request, which was due September 1, 2026.

Director Zubia provided additional background regarding discussions with the Sexual Assault Coalition. He stated that the Coalition initially encouraged CVRC to request \$10 million for sexual assault services. However, CVRC determined that it could substantiate a need for \$3 million based on the funding gap identified through the recent

RFP process. He explained that providers expanded services using approximately \$2 million in non-recurring State funding during the prior fiscal year, while the most recurring funding beginning July 1, 2026, was allocated to the sexual assault helpline based on peer review recommendations. Director Zubia added that CVRC received guidance from the Governor's Office to provide supporting documentation and data for the request and was advised that requests exceeding 3% could raise concerns during the upcoming legislative session.

Concealed Carry Course & Permit (Voting Item)

Ms. Sanchez requested review and approval to consider reasonable concealed-carry expenses as an alternative safety measure for eligible crime victims. She explained that the previous Commission had approved a concealed carry course when counseling or other supportive services did not adequately address a client's safety needs. Ms. Sanchez clarified that CVRC would not pay for or reimburse firearms, ammunition, or other related weapons.

Director Zubia further explained that the previous Commission had authorized this type of request, although it had not been utilized until the current client raised the matter. The client indicated that, despite being strongly encouraged by her mental health provider, she believed a concealed-carry course could provide an appropriate means of addressing her safety concerns. Director Zubia stated that the previous Commission's approval established an expense range of approximately \$150 to \$250 for this type of request. This cost is considerably less than other safety measures that may be provided to clients, such as video surveillance equipment, rental assistance, or relocation expenses.

The proposed policy would have allowed CVRC to consider reasonable expenses associated with concealed carry as an alternative security measure for eligible crime victims, including applicable training courses and permit fees. However, the purchase of a handgun, firearm, ammunition, or related weapon is not an allowable or reimbursable expense under the Commission's Crime Victims Compensation Program.

Commission Chair Karst asked for a motion to oppose the proposed policy. Commission Member Brown made the motion to oppose, and Commission Vice Chair Stewart seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Commission roll call vote was as follows: Commission Chair Karst, yes, to deny this request; Commission Vice Chair Stewart, yes, to deny this request; Commission Member Brown, yes, to deny this request; Commission Member Rogers, yes, to deny this request.

Business

Federal Victim of Crime Act (VOCA) Victim Assistance (VA) Competitive Funding FFY27 Preliminary Award (Voting Item)

Ms. Richmond reports to the Commission that the FFY2027 Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) applications were reviewed. CVRC received 74 applications requesting more than \$16 million, with approximately \$9.5 million available for awards. The Peer Review Committee recommended 59 awards totaling \$9.4 million, which was provided to the Commission in a supplemental report for preliminary review.

Director Zubia emphasized that the review process was particularly challenging because of the significant funding gap and the demonstrated needs of many nonprofit and governmental organizations across the state. The Peer Review Committee considered each organization's capacity to administer federal funds and comply with the 71 federal special conditions, along with additional language established by CVRC. CVRC recognized the Peer Review Committee members for their time and participation in the RFP process.

Director Zubia added that the preliminary award letters will include language clarifying that the letters are not contracts and that the awards remain subject to final Commission approval. The Commission will present final awards at the upcoming September meeting.

Commission Chair Karst asked for a motion to approve the VOCA Competitive Funding for FFY27 Preliminary Award. Commission Member Rogers made the motion to approve, and Commission Vice Chair Sheriff Stewart seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Grant Status Report (VOCA, VAWA, SASP, State Funds) VOCA Award Conditions

Ms. Richmond reported that the VOCA Grant Administrator position will be vacant after Vicki Nakagawa retires, having served the State of New Mexico for more than 20 years. The Grant Program Specialist position is also vacant, and interviews are underway. She noted that all state allocation contracts and VAWA contracts have been successfully executed and are currently active. CVRC will next begin negotiations for the FY2027 VOCA contracts, which take effect October 1, 2026.

Director Zubia recognized the Grants Department. Following mediation with the New Mexico Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NMCADV), CVRC reassessed VAWA contracting processes and amended all contracts to ensure compliance with policies, procedures, and federal requirements. CVRC also completed the required risk assessments of all subrecipients and renegotiated contract amendments to clarify contract language and special requirements. Director Zubia noted that the revisions were developed with guidance from legal counsel and Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) subject-matter experts and were intended to improve clarity and compliance rather than impose additional special requirements or conditions.

Executive Session

At 10:42 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 Sheriff Stewart seconded the motion.

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

At 11:31 a.m., Commission Chair Karst asked for a motion to exit from Executive Session. Commission Member Dr. Brown made the motion to approve, and Commission Member Rogers seconded the motion.

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

Action on Items Discussed in Executive Session (Voting Items)

Miller/Caouette v CVRC – RMD No. 240993

NOTE: Pursuant to NMSA 1978, Section 10-15-1(H)(7), the Commission may enter closed session to meet with counsel and discuss pending or threatened litigation in which the Commission is or may become a participant.

Commission Chair Karst asked for a motion to accept the Civil Attorney's recommendation as discussed in Executive Session. Commission Member Rogers made the motion to accept, and Commission Vice Chair Stewart seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Claim # 261617 – Pending Appeal

NOTE: Pursuant to NMSA 1978, Section 10-15-1(H)(3), the Commission may enter closed session to discuss matters pertaining to the examination, consideration, or determination of a matter involving an individual claimant, including the pending appeal identified above.

Commission Chair Karst asked for a motion to deny claim #261617 for ineligibility. Commission Member Rogers made the motion to deny, and Commission Member Dr. Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Date and Place of Next Meeting

The next Commission meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, September 24, 2026, at 10:00a.m., at New Mexico Crime Victims Reparation Commission, 6200 Uptown Blvd. NE, Suite 210, in Albuquerque, NM, in the conference room.

Adjourn

At 11:35 a.m., Commission Chair Karst adjourned the August 27, 2026, Commission meeting.

APPROVED:  Signed by: _____ DATE: 9/24/2026
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Commission Chair Karst