



MINUTES
Full Board Meeting
Hybrid Meeting
Monday, February 23, 2026
809 Copper Ave. NW, Albuquerque, NM 87102
1:30 pm

Before the meeting began Art Martinez explained that when voting takes place, we will ask for a roll call for those who don't approve and then identify the names of the members that did not respond to the "don't approve" as an affirmative vote. Additionally, prior to the affirmative roll call members that abstain from voting will respond via voice confirmation to the Board Chair and describe the reason. After the names are called for the affirmative vote, the chair will pause and ask those that do not concur with the affirmative roll call vote to voice a different vote. To ensure that a quorum remains, Ms. Nicole Giddings monitors the participants to ensure quorum is present and notes if a member is not available.

Call to Order: Stacy Sacco, Chair-Elect at 1:35 pm

Roll Call - by Nicole Giddings

• In-Person	○ Virtual	NP – Not Present
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- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karla Causey, Treasurer - Black Chamber of Commerce of New Mexico • Robert Chavez – Youth Development Inc. • Vaadra Chavez, Chair-Elect - Securin ○ Troy Clark – New Mexico Hospital Association ○ Chris Corbine – Woodruff Engineering, Inc. ○ Gabriel Esparza – Albuquerque Job Corps | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Mierzwa – Ingenuity Software Labs, Inc • Holly Muller, Presbyterian Healthcare Services NP - Debbie Ortiz, RDO Enterprises • Stacy Sacco, Chair– SACCO Connections ○ James Salas – New Mexico Commission for the Blind • Waldy Salazar – New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions |
|--|---|

NP - Bobby Getts - NM JATC for the Electrical Industry.

NP - Tracy Hartzler – Central New Mexico Community College

- **Justin Hilliard** – City of Albuquerque, Economic Development

NP - Antoinette Holmes - NM Department of Vocational Rehabilitation

NP - Gregg Hull – City of Rio Rancho

NP - Dr. Kristopher Johnson – Rio Rancho Public Schools

- **Robert Leming** – New Mexico Chamber of Commerce
- **Roxanne Luna** - New Mexico Human Services Department
- **James Magoffe** - Yearout Mechanical Inc.

NP - Leslie Sanchez – Dual Language Education of New Mexico

- **Jerry Schalow**– Rancho Regional Chamber of Commerce

NP - Tom Schuch– New Mexico Restaurant Association

NP - Jennifer Sinsabaugh – New Mexico MEP

NP - Elisha Torres-Saavedra – PNM

- **Raymond Trujillo** – Southwest Piping Institute (Local 412)
- **David Valdes** – Central New Mexico Community College
- **David Vadera** – 2Gates2Paths, LLC
- **Susan YaSenka** - University of New Mexico Valencia Campus

Approval of WCNM Full Board Agenda, February 23, 2026

Motion: James Magoffe

Second: John Mierzwa

No Discussion

Action: Passed unanimously by Voice Vote.

	Yes In-Person/Virtual	No In-Person/Virtual	Abstain In-Person/Virtual
Karla Causey	I		
Robert Chavez			I
Vaadra Chavez	I		
Troy Clark	V		
Gabriel Esparza			
Bobby Getts			
Tracey Hartzler			
Antoinette Holmes			
Justin Hilliard	V		
Gregg Hull			
Dr. Kristopher Johnson			
Robert Leming	I		
Roxanne Luna	I		
James Magoffe	I		
John Mierzwa	I		
Holly Muller	I		
Debbie Ortiz			
Stacy Sacco	I		
James Salas	V		
Waldy Salazar	I		
Leslie Sanchez			
Jerry Schalow			
Tom Schuch			
Jennifer Sinsabaugh			
Elisha Torres-Saavedra			
Raymond Trujillo	I		
David Valdes	V		
David Vadera	V		
Susan Vasenka	V		

Tab 1: Approval of WCCNM Full Board Minutes, October 25, 2025

Motion: James Magoffe
Second: Ray Trujillo
No Discussion
Action: Passed unanimously by Voice Vote.

	Yes In-Person/Virtual	No In-Person/Virtual	Abstain In-Person/Virtual
Karla Causey	I		
Robert Chavez	I		
Vaadra Chavez	I		
Troy Clark	V		
Gabriel Esparza			
Bobby Getts			
Tracey Hartzler			
Antoinette Holmes			
Justin Hilliard	V		
Gregg Hull			
Dr. Kristopher Johnson			
Robert Leming	I		
Roxanne Luna	I		
James Magoffe	I		
John Mierzwa	I		
Holly Muller	I		
Debbie Ortiz			
Stacy Sacco	I		
James Salas	V		
Waldy Salazar	I		
Leslie Sanchez			
Jerry Schalow			
Tom Schuch			
Jennifer Sinsabaugh			
Elisha Torres-Saavedra			
Raymond Trujillo	I		
David Valdes	V		
David Vadera	V		
Susan Vasenka	V		

ACTION ITEMS

Tab 2 Ratify Policies approved via WCCNM Executive Standing Committee

- A. General Program Policy NO. GP-107, Change 3 - Requirements and Eligibility for WIOA Adult and Dislocated Worker Program (Revisions)**
- B. Operational Policy NO. OP- 410, Change 12 - Supportive Services**

C. Operational Policy NO. OP – 435, Change 4 - Work Experience — Internship Policy — Adult, Dislocated Worker & Youth

- Ms. Rowland explained that in the meetings on November 17, 2025 & November 24, 2025, an urgent situation required approval of three operational policies so they could be implemented immediately. Today, we are asking the full board to formally ratify those policies.
- She noted the cover sheet included in your packet (AISS) provides a summary of the requested ratifications.
- Operational Policy OP-410 – Supportive Services - The primary update to this policy provides new guidance regarding Individual Training Accounts (ITAs) and measurable skills attainment. The change allows measurable skills attainment to be properly documented for non-traditional training institutions that do not follow a standard semester or quarter schedule.
- This is considered a minor clarification to ensure flexibility and accurate reporting.
- General Program Policy 107 – Eligibility - This policy update clarifies eligibility requirements by emphasizing enrollment of participants who are current New Mexico residents.
- The purpose of this clarification is to ensure that WCCNM and WIOA training funds remain, and benefit New Mexico residents as intended by allocation of funds.
- Operational Policy OP435 – Work Experience- This policy update clarifies proposed amendments to internship requirements, including criteria for determining a suitable host agency.
- Art Martinez explained that the proposed change addressed challenges encountered in administering internship placements. When the internship policy was originally developed, the Board spent considerable time defining parameters, however, complexities emerged with businesses seeking to host interns.
- He noted the intent of the internship program is to: provide mentorship and training for participants, create a pathway to employment within host companies, and to ensure internships are used for skill development and work experience.
- Mr. Martinez noted that an initial proposal recommended a 1:5 ratio, later revised by the Executive Committee to a 1:3 ratio, meaning an employer must have three full-time employees for each sponsored intern. This requirement was intended to ensure adequate mentorship and prevent misuse of the internship program.
- Mr. Martinez also emphasized the need to consider the unique challenges faced by Startups, emerging technology companies, rural businesses & small/minority-owned businesses.
- He suggested that future discussions might explore tiered policies or alternative approaches to accommodate these complexities while maintaining program integrity.
- Mr. Martinez recommended ratifying the policies as approved by the Executive Committee and forming a subcommittee or ad hoc committee to further evaluate concerns raised during the meeting and propose future amendments.

Questions & Comments

Motion: Karla Causey made a motion to ratify the policies with modifications as follows:

- **Operational Policy OP410:** Remains unchanged.

- **General Program Policy GP107:** Amend the ASIS language “who plan to become New Mexico residents.”
- **Operational Policy OP435:** Amend the ratio requirement to **1:1** instead of **3:1**.

Second: Robert Leming

No Discussion

Action: Passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote.

	Yes In-Person/Virtual	No In-Person/Virtual	Abstain In-Person/Virtual
Karla Causey	I		
Robert Chavez	I		
Vaadra Chavez			
Troy Clark			V
Gabriel Esparza			V
Bobby Getts			
Tracey Hartzler			
Antoinette Holmes			
Justin Hilliard	V		
Gregg Hull			
Dr. Kristopher Johnson			
Robert Leming	I		
Roxanne Luna	I		
James Magoffe		I	
John Mierzwa	I		
Holly Muller	I		
Debbie Ortiz			
Stacy Sacco	I		
James Salas	V		
Waldy Salazar	I		
Leslie Sanchez			
Jerry Schalow		I	
Tom Schuch			
Jennifer Sinsabaugh			
Elisha Torres-Saavedra			
Raymond Trujillo	I		
David Valdes		V	
David Vadera		V	
Susan Yashenka	V		

- Mr. Sacco announced the upcoming National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB) Forum, noting that several board members attend the national event each year.
- He stated that Nicole Giddings has confirmed all attendees have already been provided with the required information for participation. He also noted that a group dinner is typically organized during the conference, and additional details will be provided once arrangements are confirmed.

Tab 4 **Workforce Connection Operations Report – January 31, 2026**

- Daniel Sanchez gave update on the Operations at the American Job Centers.

Tab 5 **WCCNM Quarterly Performance Report PY25 Qtr 2**

- Sonora Rodriguez, Workforce Program Manager, gave an update on PY25 Quarter 2.

Tab 6 **Additional Grant Updates**

Pathway Home 3 – CHANCES

- Ms. Rowland provided a brief update on the **Pathway Home 3 – CHANCES Grant**. She reported that four months remain in the grant period, and current efforts are focused on improving performance outcome measures. The measures include Employment outcome, median earnings, credential attainment, measurable Skill Gains (MSGs)
- She also reported that the program is in the process of securing a report writer to complete the required recidivism report and that staff will soon begin grant closeout procedures.

H1B Building Career Pathways for Infrastructure Fund Jobs – No Update

INFORMATIONAL UPDATES

Tab 7 **Summary of Executive Committee Meeting**

- Mr. Martinez noted that the Executive Committee meeting discussion had largely been covered earlier in the meeting. He also referenced the joint CEO meeting, which he stated went well. Members were reminded that meeting minutes are available should anyone have additional questions.

Tab 8 **WIOA Monthly Expenditure Report for January 31, 2026**

- Jesse Turley, WCCNM Accounting Manager, provided reporting for the WIOA Monthly expenditure report as of January 31, 2026
- Year-to-date formula and other funding sources expenditures including the UDSDOL Chances Grant & USDOL H1B Grant for the current period, totaled \$5,307,015 with a total year-to-date expenditure.
- Mr. Turley announced his retirement along with Patricia Georges announcing hers. Staff thanked both for all their hard work and dedication for the program.

Tab 9 **WIOA Updates**

- Mr. Martinez stated the WCCNM received \$300,000 in state funding to support outreach to Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs.
- An additional \$300,000 is expected next year, pending administrative transition at the state level.
- Updates related to WIOA federal funding continuation and allocation are still being clarified at the national level.

STANDING/AD -HOC COMMITTEE UPDATES

Disability Standing Committee - No Report

Finance Standing Committee

- Mr. Robert Chavez gave a brief overview of the Finance Committee’s role was provided, noting that the committee reviews financial reports in detail, monitors expenditure rates, and ensures the Board fulfills its responsibilities.

Operations Standing Committee

- Ms. Vaadra Chavez, Chair of the Operations Committee, reported that she was unable to attend the most recent meeting. Art Martinez stated the meeting primarily consisted of program updates, and no major issues or actions requiring board attention were identified.

Youth Standing Committee

- Mr. Gabriel Esparza reported no formal updates but offered to provide guidance regarding federal internship and work-based learning structures through Job Corps if the Board seeks additional insight during future policy discussions.

PUBLIC COMMENTS/ADJOURNMENT

**Public Comments – No
Adjournment 3:30 pm**

NOTES

Next Meeting:

Date: Monday, April 20, 2026
 Time: 1:30 p.m.
 Location: Mid-Region Council of Governments

Anyone requiring special accommodations please notify the MRCOG office at 247-1750 seven (7) days prior to the meeting

“Equal Opportunity Program”

Approved at the XXXX, XXXX, WCCNM Full Board Meeting:

Stacy Sacco, WCCNM Chair-Elect

ATTEST:

Secretary

“Equal Opportunity Program”