



MINUTES
Full Board Meeting
Hybrid Meeting
Monday, April 20, 2026
809 Copper Ave. NW, Albuquerque, NM 87102
1:30 pm

Before the meeting started 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.

Roll Call - Determination of Quorum 1:40 pm - by Nicole Giddings

| • In-Person | • Virtual | NP – Not Present |
|--------------------|------------------|-------------------------|
|--------------------|------------------|-------------------------|

- **Karla Causey, Treasurer**– Black Chamber of Commerce of New Mexico
- **Robert Chavez** – Youth Development Inc.

NP- Vaadra Chavez, Chair-Elect – Cyber Security Works

NP-Troy Clark – New Mexico Hospital Association

NP-Gabriel Esparza – Albuquerque Job Corps

NP-Bobby Getts - NM JATC for the Electrical Industry

- **Tracy Hartzler** – Central New Mexico Community College
- **Justin Hilliard** – City of Albuquerque, Economic Development
- **Antoinette Holmes** - NM Department of Vocational Rehabilitation

NP-Gregg Hull – City of Rio Rancho

- **Dr. Kristopher Johnson** – Rio Rancho Public Schools
- **Robert Leming** – New Mexico Chamber of Commerce
- **Roxanne Luna** – New Mexico Human Services Department

NP-James Magoffe – Yearout Mechanical Inc.

- **John Mierzwa**– Ingenuity Software Labs, Inc

- **Holly Muller** – Presbyterian Healthcare Services

- **Debbie Ortiz**, RDO Enterprises

- **Stacy Sacco** – SACCO Connections

- **James Salas** – New Mexico Commission for the Blind

NP-Waldy Salazar – New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions

- **Leslie Sanchez** – Dual Language Education of New Mexico

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

NP-Tom Schuch – New Mexico Restaurant Association

- **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, August 20, 2026

**Motion: Tracy Hartzler
 Second: Jerry Schalow
 No Discussion**

Action: Passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote.

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

Tab 1: Approval of WCCNM Full Board Minutes, February 23, 2026

**Motion: Dr. Kristopher Johnson
 Second: Robert Leming
 No Discussion
 Action: Passed unanimously by Voice Vote.**

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

Tab 2: PY24 WCCNM Audit Report – By Kory Hoggan, Audit Principal, Bakertilly

Stacy Sacco, Board Chair introduced Mr. Corey Hogan to present the PY24 audit report

- Mr. Hogan reported on the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025 (Program Year 2024). Due to a federal delay in issuing compliance requirements, the audit was presented in separate reports: financial statements and the federal single audit.

- An unmodified (clean) opinion was issued on the financial statements, confirming compliance with GAAP. No material weaknesses or significant deficiencies were identified in internal controls, and no findings were reported in the federal compliance audit.
- One state compliance finding was noted related to a fraud incident involving unauthorized ACH transactions. Management detected the issue promptly. Of approximately \$45,000 involved, the majority was recovered, with about \$9,000 remaining. A waiver request has been submitted; if not approved, funds will be reimbursed.
- Management implemented enhanced controls, including multi-level approval, CFO verification, call-back procedures, and strengthened documentation requirements. Additional banking safeguards are being explored.
- Board members confirmed law enforcement notification and discussed strengthened fraud prevention measures. Management emphasized ongoing vigilance and adherence to updated procedures.
- The Board acknowledged staff’s timely response, transparency, and corrective actions. It was noted this marks the 15th consecutive year of an unmodified audit opinion.

ACTION ITEMS

Tab 3: Approval of Second Year Term for Chair, Chair-Elect and Treasurer

- Mr. Martinez presented the approval of second-year terms for Board officers. It was noted that all parties had been consulted in advance, and there was general agreement to proceed with the proposed appointments.

The following slate of officers for Workforce Connection of Central New Mexico was presented for approval:

- Chair: Stacey Sacco (second-year term)
- Chair-Elect: Vaadra Chavez (second-year term)
- Treasurer: Karla Causey (second-year term)

Motion: Tracy Hartzler
Second: Robert Chavez
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 | | | |
| Troy Clark | | | |
| Gabriel Esparza | | | |
| Bobby Getts | | | |
| Tracey Hartzler | I | | |
| Justin Hilliard | V | | |
| Antoinette Holmes | V | | |

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|--|--|
| Gregg Hull | | | |
| Dr. Kristopher Johnson | I | | |
| Robert Leming | I | | |
| Roxanne Luna | V | | |
| James Magoffe | | | |
| John Mierzwa | V | | |
| Holly Muller | V | | |
| Debbie Ortiz | V | | |
| Stacy Sacco | I | | |
| James Salas | V | | |
| Waldy Salazar | | | |
| Leslie Sanchez | V | | |
| Jerry Schalow | V | | |
| Tom Schuch | | | |
| Jennifer Sinsabaugh | V | | |
| Elisha Torres-Saavedra | | | |
| Raymond Trujillo | I | | |
| David Valdes | I | | |
| David Vadera | V | | |
| Susan Yashenka | V | | |

Tab 4: Approval of WCCNM Meeting Dates

- Mr. Martinez presented the WCCNM Meeting Dates for PY26.
- Board members reviewed the schedule and confirmed there were no conflicts with holidays or other significant dates.

Motion: Ray Trujillo

Second: Kristopher Johnson

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 | | | |
| Troy Clark | | | |
| Gabriel Esparza | | | |
| Bobby Getts | | | |
| Tracey Hartzler | I | | |
| Justin Hilliard | V | | |
| Antoinette Holmes | V | | |
| Gregg Hull | | | |
| Dr. Kristopher Johnson | I | | |

| | | | |
|------------------------|---|--|--|
| Robert Leming | I | | |
| Roxanne Luna | V | | |
| James Magoffe | | | |
| John Mierzwa | V | | |
| Holly Muller | V | | |
| Debbie Ortiz | V | | |
| Stacy Sacco | I | | |
| James Salas | V | | |
| Waldy Salazar | | | |
| Leslie Sanchez | V | | |
| Jerry Schalow | V | | |
| Tom Schuch | | | |
| Jennifer Sinsabaugh | V | | |
| Elisha Torres-Saavedra | | | |
| Raymond Trujillo | I | | |
| David Valdes | I | | |
| David Vadera | V | | |
| Susan Yashenka | V | | |

Tab 5: Approval of Open Meeting Act Resolution R-01-26

- Mr. Martinez presented Open Meetings Act Resolution R-01-26
- He stated that the current resolution remains unchanged from the prior year. It was previously reviewed and approved by legal counsel. The resolution is required to ensure compliance with the State of New Mexico Open Meetings Act, including quorum requirements and transparency in board operations.

comments

Motion: Karla Causey
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 | | | |
| Troy Clark | | | |
| Gabriel Esparza | | | |
| Bobby Getts | | | |
| Tracey Hartzler | I | | |
| Justin Hilliard | V | | |
| Antoinette Holmes | V | | |
| Gregg Hull | | | |
| Dr. Kristopher Johnson | I | | |

| | | | |
|------------------------|---|--|--|
| Robert Leming | I | | |
| Roxanne Luna | V | | |
| James Magoffe | | | |
| John Mierzwa | V | | |
| Holly Muller | V | | |
| Debbie Ortiz | V | | |
| Stacy Sacco | I | | |
| James Salas | V | | |
| Waldy Salazar | | | |
| Leslie Sanchez | V | | |
| Jerry Schalow | V | | |
| Tom Schuch | | | |
| Jennifer Sinsabaugh | V | | |
| Elisha Torres-Saavedra | | | |
| Raymond Trujillo | I | | |
| David Valdes | I | | |
| David Vadera | V | | |
| Susan Yashenka | V | | |

SERVICE & TRAINING PROVIDER UPDATES

Tab 6: Chairman's Items

- Mr. Sacco reported on the potential establishment of a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. The purpose would be to enable financial institutions and other entities to contribute funding in support of workforce programs through tax-deductible donations. The concept had been explored in prior years and will be revisited, with additional information to be presented at a future meeting.
- He also discussed attendance at the National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB) Summit and invited Board members to share insights. Discussion focused on emerging trends, including:
 - Expansion of career-connected learning and career exploration at earlier grade levels (elementary and middle school).
 - Development of workforce pipelines aligned with K-12, higher education, and industry needs.
 - Increased interest in scalable models such as camps, hands-on training, and career exploration programs.

Discussion

Tab 7: Workforce Connection Operations Report – March 31, 2026

- Mr. Daniel Sanchez gave an update on operational activities in the Central Region.
- He stated the workforce data dashboard has been updated and is now current and accessible via the website.
- Outreach efforts have expanded across all four counties, with increased engagement in underserved areas.

- Approximately 1,000 new clients accessed services in the past month, and the regional unemployment rate is approximately 4.5%, with increasing utilization of workforce services.
- Two upcoming events, National Partnership event scheduled for April 28, 2026, and the 11th Annual “Hiring Heroes” event is scheduled for April 29, 2026.
- He also noted that an accessibility audit of digital platforms was completed. Staff are working to address identified issues, including website accessibility features (e.g., alternative text, document formatting), to ensure compliance.

Tab 8: Additional Grant Updates

Pathway Home 3 – Chances

- Ms. Rowland provided an update on the Pathways Home Chances Grant, noting the program is in its final phase and will conclude at the end of June. Efforts are focused on closing out the grant, supporting remaining participants, and fully utilizing available supportive service funds.
- She also reported that a contractor is being identified to complete the required recidivism report as part of the grant closeout process.
- Discussion highlighted lessons learned from the program, including the development of a network of resources to support justice-involved individuals.

H1B Building Career Pathways for Infrastructure Fund Jobs

- Ms. Rodriguez reported on the H1B Grant.
- She noted that 112 participants have been co-enrolled to date, with a goal of 225 participants by 2028. Training areas include CDL, cybersecurity, carpentry, low-voltage technicians, and on-the-job training.
- A pilot partnership with CNM’s Electrical Line Worker Program is underway, providing supportive services such as transportation and housing assistance.
- Staff reported leveraging over \$80,000 in the most recent quarter and approximately \$605,000 total through co-enrollment strategies.
- She stated an upcoming Regional Workforce Summit focused on advanced technology sector strategies is scheduled for July.

INFORMATIONAL UPDATES

Tab 9: WIOA Monthly Expenditure Report for January 31, 2026 – No report given

Tab 10: WIOA Updates

National Association of Workforce Board Conference Update

- Staff and Board members discussed national trends presented at recent conference, including the increasing impact of artificial intelligence (AI) on the workforce. Emphasis was placed on the need for workforce systems to adapt and incorporate AI-related skills, while recognizing continued strong demand for skilled trades.
- Emerging opportunities such as new apprenticeship models (e.g., advanced construction technologies) were also noted.

Request for Ad-Hoc Committee for Local Plan 2 Year Modification

- Ms. Rowland noted that the required two-year modification to the local workforce plan is upcoming. An ad hoc committee will be formed to assist with review and development, with work expected to begin in June.

STANDING/AD-HOC COMMITTEE UPDATES

Disability Standing Committee - Antoinette Holmes, reported that recent discussions focused on website accessibility compliance. Staff are implementing improvements to ensure accessibility standards are met. Additional initiatives and partnerships, including potential ASL interpretation services, are being explored.

Finance Standing Committee – Ms. Karla Causey requested to establish a more consistent process for receiving financial reports in advance of meetings to allow for scheduled committee review, rather than ad hoc meetings.

Operations Standing Committee – No Report

Youth Standing Committee – No Report

PUBLIC COMMENT/ADJOURNMENT

- **Public Comment** – None
- **Adjournment** – 3:12 p.m.
- Ms. Causey announced that the Herb Crosby Memorial Scholarship application is open through May 15. The scholarship supports New Mexico high school seniors pursuing post-secondary education, including apprenticeships and certification programs, with awards up to \$2,500.
- She encouraged Board members to share this opportunity within their networks.

NOTES

Next Meeting:

Date: Monday, June 15, 2026

Time: 1:30 p.m.

Location: Mid-Region Council of Governments – Board Room – Hybrid Meeting

Approved at the **XXXXXXXXXXXXXX**, WCCNM Full Board Meeting:

ATTEST:

Secretary

“Equal Opportunity Program”

DRAFT