



# MINUTES

## Full Board Meeting

Hybrid Meeting

Monday, February 23, 2026

809 Copper Ave. NW, Albuquerque, NM 87102

1:30 pm

## Opening Notes

*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.*

## Call to Order

Stacy Sacco, Chair at 1:35 pm

## Roll Call – Determination of Quorum

Facilitator: Nicole Giddings

Attendees:

Attendee	Organization	In Person	Virtual	Not Present
Karla Causey, Treasurer	Black Chamber of Commerce of New Mexico	X		
Robert Chavez	Youth Development Inc.	X		
Vaadra Chavez, Chair Elect	Scale Smart HR	X		
Troy Clark	New Mexico Hospital Association		X	
Chris Corbine	Woodruff Engineering, Inc.		X	
Gabriel Esparza	Albuquerque Job Corps		X	
Bobby Getts	NM JATCH for Electrical Industry			X
Tracy Hartzler	Central New Mexico Community College			X



Attendee	Organization	In Person	Virtual	Not Present
Justin Hilliard	City of Albuquerque, Economic Development		X	
Antoinette Holmes	NM Department of Vocational Rehabilitation			X
Gregg Hull	City of Rio Rancho			X
Dr. Kristopher Johnson	Rio Rancho Public Schools			X
Robert Leming	New Mexico Chamber of Commerce	X		
Roxanne Luna	New Mexico Human Services Department	X		
James Magoffe	Yearout Mechanical Inc.	X		
John Mierzwa	Ingenuity Software Labs, Inc	X		
Holly Muller	Presbyterian Healthcare Services	X		
Debbie Ortiz	RDO Enterprises			X
Stacy Sacco, Chair	SACCO Connections	X		
James Salas	New Mexico Commission for the Blind		X	
Waldy Salazar	New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions	X		
Leslie Sanchez	Dual Language Education of New Mexico			X
Jerry Schalow	Rio Rancho Regional Chamber of Commerce	X		
Tom Schuch	New Mexico Restaurant Association			X
Jennifer Sinsabaugh	New Mexico MEP			X
Elisha Torres-Saavedra	PNM			X
Raymond Trujillo	Southwest Piping Institute (Local 412)	X		
David Valdes	Central New Mexico Community College		X	
David Vadera	2Gates2Paths, LLC		X	
Susan Yasenka	University of New Mexico – Valencia Campus		X	

Summary: The attendance table identifies meeting participants, their organizations, and whether they attended in person, virtually, or were not present.



## Agenda Items

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

Motion: James Magoffe

Second: John Mierzwa

No Discussion

Action: Passed unanimously by Voice Vote

Member Name	Yes	No	Abstain	No Vote
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				



Member Name	Yes	No	Abstain	No Vote
Tom Schuch				
Jennifer Sinsabaugh				
Elisha Torres-Saavedra				
Raymond Trujillo	I			
David Valdes	V			
David Vadera	V			
Susan YaSenka	V			

Summary: The voting table records board member participation and voting outcomes for the agenda item, including affirmative votes, negative votes, abstentions, and members who did not vote.

**Tab 2: Approval of WCCNM Full Board Minutes, October 25, 2025**

Motion: James Magoffe

Second: Ray Trujillo

No Discussion

Action: Passed unanimously by Voice Vote

Member Name	Yes	No	Abstain	No Vote
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			



Member Name	Yes	No	Abstain	No Vote
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 YaSenka	V			

## Action Items

### Tab 3: 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.

**Question & Comments followed**



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

Discussion: No Discussion

Action: Passed unanimously by Rol Call Vote

Member Name	Yes	No	Abstain	No Vote
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			



Member Name	Yes	No	Abstain	No Vote
Leslie Sanchez				
Jerry Schalow		I		
Tom Schuch				
Jennifer Sinsabaugh				
Elisha Torres-Saavedra				
Raymond Trujillo	I			
David Valdes		V		
David Vadera		V		
Susan YaSenka	V			

## Service and Training Provider Updates

### Tab 4: Chairman's Items

**Facilitator:** Stacy Sacco, Board Chair

**Discussion:**

- 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 5: Workforce Connection Operations Report – January 31, 2026

**Facilitator:** Daniel Sanchez

**Discussion:**

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

### Tab 6: WCCNM Quarterly Performance Report PY25 Quarter 2

**Facilitator:** Sonora Rodriguez, Program Manager

**Discussion:**

- Ms. Rodriguez gave an update on the PY25 Quarter 2 performance.

### Tab 7: 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 8: Summary of Executive Standing 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 9: 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, totaling \$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 10: 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.

### **Committee Reports**

- **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 Comment

None

## Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at: 3:30 pm

## Next Meeting

Date	Time	Location
Monday, April 20, 2026	1:30 pm	Mid-Region Council of Governments, 809 Copper Ave. NW, Albuquerque, NM 87102

Summary: The table provides the date, time, and location details for the next scheduled meeting.



## **Approval**

Approved at the WCCNM Full Board Meeting held on April 20, 2026

Should you require a signed copy of these minutes, please contact Nicole Giddings at [ngiddings@mrcog-nm.gov](mailto:ngiddings@mrcog-nm.gov)

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

**Equal Opportunity Statement  
"Equal Opportunity Program"**