



MINUTES

Full Board Meeting

Hybrid Meeting

Monday, April 20, 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 1:40 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
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

Approval of WCCNM Full Board Agenda, April 20, 2026

Motion: Tracy Hartzler

Second: Jerry Schalow

No Discussion

Action: Passed unanimously by Voice Vote

Member Name	Yes	No	Abstain	No Vote
Karla Causey				
Robert Chavez	I			
Vaadra Chavez				
Troy Clark				
Gabriel Esparza				
Bobby Getts				
Tracey Hartzler	I			
Justin Hilliard	V			
Antoinette Holmes				
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			



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

Member Name	Yes	No	Abstain	No Vote
Karla Causey				
Robert Chavez	I			
Vaadra Chavez				
Troy Clark				
Gabriel Esparza				
Bobby Getts				
Tracey Hartzler	I			
Justin Hilliard	V			
Antoinette Holmes				
Gregg Hull				
Dr. Kristopher Johnson	I			
Robert Leming	I			
Roxanne Luna	V			
James Magoffe				



Member Name	Yes	No	Abstain	No Vote
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 Vedera	V			
Susan YaSenka	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)

Motin: Tracy Hartzler

Second: Robert Chavez

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				
Gabriel Esparza				
Bobby Getts				
Tracey Hartzler	I			
Justin Hilliard	V			
Antoinette Holmes	V			



Member Name	Yes	No	Abstain	No Vote
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 YaSenka	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.

Motin: Ray Trujillo

Second: Kristopher Johnson

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				
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 Vedera	V			



Member Name	Yes	No	Abstain	No Vote
Susan YaSenka	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

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				
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			



Member Name	Yes	No	Abstain	No Vote
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 YaSenka	V			

Service and Training Provider Updates

Tab 6: Chairman's Items

Facilitator: Stacy Sacco, Board Chair

Discussion:

- 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

Facilitator: Daniel Sanchez

Discussion:

- 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

Facilitator: Tawnya Rowland

Discussion:

- 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

Facilitator: Sonora Rodriguez

Discussion:

- 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.

Committee Reports

- **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

None

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at: 3:12 pm

- 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.

Next Meeting

Date	Time	Location
Monday, June 15, 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 June 15, 2026

Should you require a signed copy of these minutes, please contact Nicole Giddings at 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"**