MINUTES

Full Board Meeting

Hybrid Meeting
Monday, June 15, 2026
809 Copper Ave. NW, Albuquerque, NM 87102
1:30 pm

Meeting Leadership

Stacy Sacco, Chair
Vaadra Chavez, Chair-Elect
Karla Causey, Treasurer

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 1:43 pm

Roll Call – Determination of Quorum

Facilitator: Nicole Giddings

Attendees:

Attendee	Organization	In Person	Virtual	Not Present
Steve Anaya	City of Moriarty			X
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

Attendee	Organization	In Person	Virtual	Not Present
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
Justin Hilliard	City of Albuquerque, Economic Development		X	X
Antoinette Holmes	NM Department of Vocational Rehabilitation		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
Mark Podeyn	Action RV Specialists Inc.	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 Vedera	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.

Introduction of new board member Mark Podeyn, Action RV Specialists Inc.

Agenda Items

Approval of WCCNM Full Board Agenda, June 15, 2026

Motion: Karla Causey
Second: Jerry Schalow
No Discussion
Action: Passed unanimously by Voice Vote

Member Name	Yes	No	Abstain	No Vote
Steve Anaya				
Karla Causey	I			
Robert Chavez	I			
Vaadra Chavez				
Troy Clark				
Gabriel Esparza	V			
Bobby Getts				
Tracey Hartzler				
Justin Hilliard	V			
Antoinette Holmes	V			
Dr. Kristopher Johnson				
Robert Leming	I			
Roxanne Luna				
James Magoffe				
John Mierzwa	V			
Holly Muller	V			
Debbie Ortiz				
Mark Podeyn	I			
Stacy Sacco	I			
James Salas	V			
Waldy Salazar	V			

Member Name	Yes	No	Abstain	No Vote
Leslie Sanchez				
Jerry Schalow	I			
Tom Schuch				
Jennifer Sinsabaugh	V			
Elisha Torres-Saavedra				
Raymond Trujillo	I			
David Valdes				
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, April 20, 2026

Motion: Jerry Schalow
Second: Raymond Trujillo
No Discussion
Action: Passed unanimously by Voice Vote

Member Name	Yes	No	Abstain	No Vote
Steve Anaya				
Karla Causey	I			
Robert Chavez	I			
Vaadra Chavez				
Troy Clark				
Gabriel Esparza	V			
Bobby Getts				
Tracey Hartzler				
Justin Hilliard	V			
Antoinette Holmes	V			
Dr. Kristopher Johnson				
Robert Leming	I			

Member Name	Yes	No	Abstain	No Vote
Roxanne Luna				
James Magoffe				
John Mierzwa	V			
Holly Muller	V			
Debbie Ortiz				
Mark Podeyn	I			
Stacy Sacco	I			
James Salas	V			
Waldy Salazar	V			
Leslie Sanchez				
Jerry Schalow	I			
Tom Schuch				
Jennifer Sinsabaugh	V			
Elisha Torres-Saavedra				
Raymond Trujillo	I			
David Valdes				
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.

Action Items

Tab 2: Approval of WFCP-02-26, PY26 Preliminary Budget

- Elena King presented the Preliminary Program Year (PY) 2026 Budget for the period of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027.
- Ms. King explained the budget is based on the allocation of funds received from the New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions, as the pass-through entity, and projected carry-in amounts.
- The New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions (NMDWS) issued the PY26 allocation which indicated a 7.66% decrease for the Central Region. The

allocation presented to WCCNM are as follows: Adult $1,682,342, Dislocated Worker $3,681,863 Youth $1,527,768 and Administrative in the amount of $765,768 for a total PY26 allocation of $7,657,682. This is a $635,390 decrease from the prior year's $8,293,072.

- The PY26 Preliminary Budget estimates the formula carry-in from PY25 to PY26 in the amount of $1,826,000. It is estimated with $1,000,000 Adult, $400,000 Dislocated Worker, $243,000 Youth and $182,600 Administrative dollars.
- The PY26 Preliminary Budget includes an additional $1,200,000 to serve the WIOA population and help with the budgetary reductions from NMDWS.
- The PY26 Preliminary Budget has an initial request to transfer $300,000 monies of Dislocated Worker to Adult to align with currently experienced clientele mix. This will still need approval by NMDWS. An Additional $2,000,000 is being planned for later.
- The PY26 Preliminary Budget provides monies in the Professional Services category of $65,000 Board Expenses, $15,000 Legal and $65,000 Audit, $210,572 in Contingency, which includes the balance of the Sale of Lease & Social Security Ticket-to-Work.
- PY26 Preliminary budget adds the new NMDWS Community Based Funding Grant in the amount of $285,000 for the purposes of serving Youth interested in skilled trades work-based learning opportunities.
- PY26 Preliminary budget continues to have the one ongoing USDOL grant Career Pathways Infrastructure. It brings in additional directed funding streams to serve central area, thus there is one additional service provider contract with MRCOG.
- Total Financial Budget totals $12,552,984.

Motion: Raymond Trujillo
Second: Robert Leming
Discussion: No Discussion
Action: Passed unanimously by Rol Call Vote

Member Name	Yes	No	Abstain	No Vote
Steve Anaya				
Karla Causey	I			
Robert Chavez			I	
Vaadra Chavez				
Troy Clark				
Gabriel Esparza	V			

workforce connection of central new mexico

Member Name	Yes	No	Abstain	No Vote
Bobby Getts				
Tracey Hartzler				
Justin Hilliard	V			
Antoinette Holmes	V			
Dr. Kristopher Johnson				
Robert Leming	I			
Roxanne Luna				
James Magoffe				
John Mierzwa	V			
Holly Muller	V			
Debbie Ortiz				
Mark Podeyn	I			
Stacy Sacco	I			
James Salas	V			
Waldy Salazar	V			
Leslie Sanchez				
Jerry Schalow	I			
Tom Schuch				
Jennifer Sinsabaugh	V			
Elisha Torres-Saavedra				
Raymond Trujillo	I			
David Valdes				
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 3: Approval of Workforce Connection of Central New Mexico Service Provider Annual Contract Amendment Renewal Requests (with Risk Assessment) Administrative Entity Fiscal Agent with the Mid-Region Council of Governments

- Art Martinez presented the proposed contract between the Mid-Region Council of Governments (MRCOG) and the Workforce Connection of Central New Mexico for Administrative Entity and Fiscal Agent.
- He noted that while the original packet did not include the risk assessment, it was included in the materials emailed to Board members.
- Mr. Martinez stated that MRCOG has successfully performed these duties for more than 20 years with no audit findings, monitoring findings, or issues identified by the U.S. Department of Labor. Although the New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions has provided minor observations during monitoring, MRCOG continues to be considered a low-risk entity. He highlighted the organization's experienced staff, thorough research, and strong performance in supporting the Board, and requested Board approval of the contract.

Motin: Raymond Trujillo
Second: Robert Leming
Discussion: No Discussion
Action: Passed unanimously by Rol Call Vote

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

Member Name	Yes	No	Abstain	No Vote
Holly Muller	V			
Debbie Ortiz				
Mark Podeyn	I			
Stacy Sacco	I			
James Salas	V			
Waldy Salazar	V			
Leslie Sanchez				
Jerry Schalow	I			
Tom Schuch				
Jennifer Sinsabaugh	V			
Elisha Torres-Saavedra				
Raymond Trujillo	I			
David Valdes				
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 4: Approval of Workforce Connection of Central New Mexico Service Provider Annual Contract Amendment Renewal Requests (with Risk Assessment) One-Stop Operator Contract with the Mid-Region Council of Governments

- Mr. Martinez Presented the contract amendment for One-Stop Operator with MRCOG

Motin: Jerry Schalow
Second: Karla Causey
Discussion: No Discussion
Action: Passed unanimously by Rol Call Vote

Member Name	Yes	No	Abstain	No Vote
Steve Anaya				
Karla Causey	I			
Robert Chavez	I			

Member Name	Yes	No	Abstain	No Vote
Vaadra Chavez				
Troy Clark				
Gabriel Esparza	V			
Bobby Getts				
Tracey Hartzler				
Justin Hilliard	V			
Antoinette Holmes	V			
Dr. Kristopher Johnson				
Robert Leming	I			
Roxanne Luna				
James Magoffe				
John Mierzwa	V			
Holly Muller	V			
Debbie Ortiz				
Mark Podeyn	I			
Stacy Sacco	I			
James Salas	V			
Waldy Salazar	V			
Leslie Sanchez				
Jerry Schalow	I			
Tom Schuch				
Jennifer Sinsabaugh	V			
Elisha Torres-Saavedra				
Raymond Trujillo	I			
David Valdes				
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 5: Approval of Workforce Connection of Central New Mexico Service Provider Annual Contract Amendment Renewal Requests (with Risk Assessment) Adult/Dislocated Worker Service Provider Contract with the Mid-Region Council of Governments

- Mr. Martinez presented the Adult/Dislocated Worker Service Provider contract with MRCOG, noting that the Request for Proposals (RFP) was issued in early 2025 and that responses were received and evaluated through the procurement process.
- He explained that this was the first contract resulting from that RFP
- He noted that Karla Causey and the Finance Committee had already thoroughly evaluated the proposal.
- Mr. Martinez stated that the Finance Committee recommended approval and requested the Board's approval of the contract.

Motin: Jerry Schalow
Second: Ray Trujillo
Discussion: No Discussion
Action: Passed unanimously by Rol Call Vote

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

Member Name	Yes	No	Abstain	No Vote
John Mierzwa	V			
Holly Muller	V			
Debbie Ortiz				
Mark Podeyn	I			
Stacy Sacco	I			
James Salas	V			
Waldy Salazar	V			
Leslie Sanchez				
Jerry Schalow	I			
Tom Schuch				
Jennifer Sinsabaugh	V			
Elisha Torres-Saavedra				
Raymond Trujillo	I			
David Valdes				
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 6: Approval of Workforce Connection of Central New Mexico Service Provider Annual Contract Amendment Renewal Requests (with Risk Assessment) Youth Service Provider Contract with Youth Development Inc.

- Mr. Martinez presented the second-year renewal for the Youth Service Provider contract. He explained that the provider's contract amount had been reduced during the previous year due to a staffing reduction and noted that the funding level may need to be revisited later in the year depending on the status of General Fund appropriations. He stated that the provider has successfully delivered youth services for many years and recommended approval of the contract renewal.
- Mr. Robert Chavez, YDI addressed the Board, disclosed that the organization is currently involved in pending litigation related to an alleged injury involving a youth participant in a separate program, and clarified that the incident did not involve the WIOA Youth Program. Mr. Chavez stated that YDI followed all applicable policies, procedures, and state regulations and that the matter

remains pending. He emphasized the organization's commitment to participant safety and transparency.

- Mr. Chavez, provided an update on program operations, reporting strong demand for youth services while noting the ongoing challenge of recruiting and engaging out-of-school youth. He emphasized the importance of serving both in-school and out-of-school youth, describing in-school services as an effective prevention strategy that helps young people develop workforce skills before they become disengaged. He also noted that staff retention has improved following Board-supported compensation adjustments, resulting in greater program stability and continuity of services.
- Board members thanked YDI for its transparency regarding the pending litigation and commended the organization for its continued work serving youth throughout the region.

Discussion

- During review of the contract documents, Mr. Vedera identified a clerical error in **Tabs 3, 4, 5, and 6**, noting that the renewal contracts listed a term ending on **June 31, 2027**, although June has only 30 days.
- Board members discussed the correction and agreed the issue was a clerical error rather than a substantive change requiring separate Board action. Staff confirmed that the contract dates would be corrected to reflect the proper term.
- The Board agreed to approve **Tabs 3, 4, 5, and 6** with the corrected contract period of **July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027**, and directed staff to revise the documents accordingly.

Motin: Jerry Schalow
Second: Karla Causey
Discussion: No Discussion
Action: Passed unanimously by Rol Call Vote

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

Member Name	Yes	No	Abstain	No Vote
Robert Leming	I			
Roxanne Luna				
James Magoffe				
John Mierzwa	V			
Holly Muller	V			
Debbie Ortiz				
Mark Podeyn	I			
Stacy Sacco	I			
James Salas	V			
Waldy Salazar	V			
Leslie Sanchez				
Jerry Schalow	I			
Tom Schuch				
Jennifer Sinsabaugh	V			
Elisha Torres-Saavedra				
Raymond Trujillo	I			
David Valdes				
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.

Service and Training Provider Updates

Tab 7: Chairman's Items

Facilitator: Stacy Sacco, Board Chair
Discussion:

- Mr. Sacco shared information about National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB) monthly webinars and meetings. Topics include AI, youth programs, apprenticeships, and internships.

- He noted the upcoming Regional Workforce Summit: July 23, 2026, at CNM and New Mexico Governor's Conference for Economic Development: September 2–3, 2026, at Isleta Resort & Casino.
- Mr. Sacco encouraged Board members to participate in local job fairs and hiring events through America's Job Center New Mexico and other community partners.

Tab 8: Workforce Connection Operations Report – May 31, 2026

Facilitator: Daniel Sanchez

- Mr. Sanchez provided a brief Workforce Connection Operations Report and noted temporary office disruptions due to a transformer/power issue.
- He encouraged the Board members to review the full Operations Report distributed electronically.

Tab 9: Additional Grant Updates

Pathway Home 3 – CHANCES

Facilitator: Tawnya Rowland
Discussion:

- Ms. Rowland provided an update on the Chances Grant
- She stated the grant closeout is expected to begin within the next few weeks. There were approximately 160 participants that were enrolled.
- Remaining supportive services will be provided through the end of the month.
- She noted that we are working with a contractor to complete the required recidivism report for grant closeout.
- The grant is currently on schedule for closeout and network of partners has been developed that can continue supporting participants after the grant ends.
- Ms. Rowland stated that she is working on the Community Benefit Fund Grant
- Staff are incorporating strategies into the program management plan to continue supporting H-1B grant activities through collaboration and potentially serve additional participants.

H1B Building Career Pathways for Infrastructure Fund Jobs

Facilitator: Arthur Martinez
Discussion:

- Mr. Martinez gave an update on the H1B Grant.
- He noted that the grant has approximately two years and three months remaining.
- Staff are continuing foundational work and developing partnerships to expand participant engagement.
- Additional updates will be provided as the program progresses.

Informational Updates

Ad Hoc Committee

Internship / Work-Based Training Policy Committee

Facilitator: Gabriel Esparza
Discussion:

- Mr. Esparza, chair of the ad-hoc committee, provided an update on the committee's review of the proposed 3:1 host agency ratio for internships. The committee discussed concerns that the ratio could unintentionally exclude small employers while recognizing the need to prevent misuse of internship positions. Several policy options were reviewed, with the committee expressing support for further developing a screening process and limited review procedure before making recommendations to the Board. Additional discussion and recommendations will be brought back to the Board.

Residency Committee

Facilitator: Tawnya Rowland
Discussion:

- Ms. Rowland and the ad-hoc committee reviewed General Policy 107 and discussed residency requirements for WIOA-funded services. Members confirmed that residency requirements are intended to ensure workforce funds benefit New Mexico residents and employers. Staff reported that residency language has now been incorporated into the policy and procedures. The Board discussed whether a minimum residency period should be considered and agreed that the committee would continue evaluating options and return with recommendations. It was confirmed that local workforce boards may adopt residency policies consistent with federal guidance and offered technical assistance.

Next Steps

- The Internship/Work-Based Learning Policy Committee and the Residency Ad Hoc Committee will continue their work and present recommendations to the Board at a future meeting.

Tab 10: WIOA Monthly Expenditure Report for May 31, 2026

Facilitator: Elena King
Discussion:

- Ms. King, WIOA Fiscal Program Manager, provided reporting for the WIOA Monthly expenditure report as of May 31, 2026.
- Year-to-date formula and other funding sources expenditures including the NM Community Based Fund, UDSDOL Chances Grant & USDOL H1B Grant for the current period, totaling $8,667,177 with a total year-to-date expenditure.

Tab 11: WIOA Updates

Standing Committee Updates

- **Disability Standing Committee – No Update**
- **Finance Standing Committee**

  Ms. Causey Committee Chair welcomed a new member, Robert Leming, to the Finance Committee and invited other Board members to participate.
- **Operations Standing Committee – No Update**
- **Youth Standing Committee**

  Mr. Esparza reported that the Youth Program continues to make progress, including year-to-date enrollments, work experience placements, and participant success stories demonstrating positive education and employment outcomes.

  He also provided an update on Albuquerque Job Corps, reporting that the center remains operational and funded through summer 2027. Student enrollment is increasing, staffing vacancies have significantly decreased, and outreach efforts continue to recruit both students and staff. Board members discussed opportunities for additional partnerships and referrals, including collaboration with Gateway Young Adult Shelter.

Public Comment

None

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at: 3:30 pm

Next Meeting

Date	Time	Location
Monday, August 17, 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

To be Approved at the WCCNM Full Board Meeting held on August 17, 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”