



**Minutes of the Meeting of the
New Mexico Sentencing Commission
May 1, 2025, 10:00 pm**

**UNM Continuing Education Building
1634 University Blvd. NE, Albuquerque, NM**

Members Present	Members Absent	Others Attending	NMSC Staff Present
Bob Cleavall, Chair (Governor)	Justin Boyd (CYFD)	Douglas Alsup (NMSC DOJ counsel)	Douglas Carver
Martin Suazo, Vice Chair (Pro Tem)	Hon. Daniel A. Bryant (DMCJA)	Scott Sanchez (LFC)	Nancy Shane
Cindy Aragon (State Bar)	Sheriff Mark Cage (House Minority)		Keri Thiel
Bennett Baur (LOPD)	Mark Donatelli (Speaker)		
Ambrosio Castellano (Speaker)	Krista Lawrence (Governor)		
Hon. John Chavez (NM SCt)	Ramona Martinez (Pro Tem)		
Claire Harwell (Governor)	Angela “Spence” Pacheco (Speaker)		
Aaron Holloman (AOC) (NM SCt)	Marissa Padilla (PED)		
Brady Horn (NM SCt)	Hon. R. David Pederson (DMCJA)		
Scot Key (Senate Minority)	Sydney West (Pro Tem)		
April Land (UNMSOL)			
Adolfo Mendez (DOJ)			
Anita Mesa (BHSD)			
Alisha Tafoya Lucero (NMCD)			
Octavian Valencia (DPS)			
Clint Wellborn, (AODA)			

I. Welcome and Introductions. The meeting was called to order at 10:07 a.m. Chair Bob Cleavall welcomed everyone to the meeting. Chair Cleavall briefly discussed the process that was used to select the new Executive Director for the Commission.

II. Approval of minutes for the December 10, 2024 meeting. The minutes of the meeting were approved by unanimous vote.

III. Staff report.

Executive Director Carver informed the members of the Commission that Douglas Alsup had replaced Rebecca Guay as the Department of Justice attorney for the Commission from the Government Counsel and Accountability Bureau. He informed the members of the Commission that after the Legislative Session the Commission would have a flat budget for the coming fiscal year, and that no new monies were appropriated to the Commission for crime reduction grants, though the Commission did receive an extension of the grants monies that had been appropriated in the 2024 Legislative Session.

Executive Director Carver further informed the members of the Commission that the bill concerning the Juvenile Community Corrections Act that the Commission had proposed, HB 255, did not pass the Legislature, as it became attached to other juvenile justice legislation that was divisive in the Legislature. The Justice Reinvestment bill, SB 54, which grew out of a process initiated by the Commission and that had a small impact on the work of the Commission, did not progress far during the Session. Another bill that touched on the Commission's work, HB 286, which removed the recruitment and retention purpose for the crime reduction grants, also did not pass, but as it had been introduced by the Vice Chair of the House Appropriations and Finance Committee, it would be taken into consideration in the upcoming round of grant awards. A final bill that touched on the Commission's work, SB 375, which changed the process for earned meritorious deductions for those who have been incarcerated in the Corrections Department, passed the Legislature; the new method of calculating earned meritorious deductions will impact the report on earned meritorious deductions that the Commission's research staff prepares each year.

Executive Director Carver closed by noting that the annual Convening of Criminal Justice Coordinating Council members and crime reduction grant recipients had occurred just a few days prior and was well attended. He added that this year the Commission had hosted a CLE in conjunction with the convening that was also well attended. The CLE concerned the intersection of trauma and the criminal justice system. He also thanked Staff Attorney Keri Thiel, Director of Research Nancy Shane, and Research Scientists Grace Cairo and Jeremy Gonzales for their work on the Fiscal Impact Reports during the Legislative Session.

IV. Conversation with Legislative Finance Committee on Grants and Criminal Code Update.

Chair Cleavall informed the members of the Commission that one issue that had arisen during the discussions Executive Director Carver and he had had with the Legislative Finance Committee was that the Commission had not put forward any project concerning the update to the Criminal Code, despite being given an appropriation for that work. He informed the members of the Commission that a plan was in place to re-start the work on the Criminal Code update.

Executive Director Carver reminded the members of the Commission that the principal proposal that came out of the work of the subcommittees that had been established for the Criminal Code update was a restructuring of the felony offenses in the Criminal Code, so that instead of four levels of felony there would be eight levels – this would more closely correspond to the actual felony structure in the Criminal Code rather than the nominal structure, as the Legislature has increasingly created felonies with penalties that differed from the four-felony structure. Rationalizing the felony structure was one of the

recommendations that had come out of the analysis of the state's Criminal Code that had been undertaken at the beginning of the Criminal Code update effort.

Members of the Commission asked questions about and discussed whether the Criminal Code update was involved with the Delinquency Act (is was not); whether the proposed restructuring was ready to be introduced; what form the bill might take; and the appetite the Legislature or the Governor's office might have for this kind of legislation.

V. FY24 Commission Audit Report

Jaime Rumbaoa, CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP, and Yasmeen Abdeljalil, CliftonLarsonAllen, presented the FY24 Audit Report to the members of the Commission. Mr. Rumbaoa stated that the report had been submitted to the Office of the State Auditor in October 2024, and was released in February 2025. Mr. Rumbaoa informed the members of the Commission that he and his team had looked at compliance requirements and the Commission's budget process. He covered the Commission's statement of net position, statement of activities, and the results of the audit. The audit was a clean opinion, reflecting no findings. He said that there were no difficulties in working with Commission staff on the audit, and added that this was the type of audit that auditors look forward to. Executive Director Carver praised the work of Commission CFO Amanda Armstrong and Accountant Jamey Cook for their work on the audit and the work that they do throughout the year keeping Commission accounts clean.

VI. Data-Driven Decisions in Criminal Justice.

Michael Smith, Director, New Mexico Tech Institute for Complex Additive Systems Analysis (ICASA); Jeriah McKenna, Research Scientist, ICASA; and Charles Brock, Senior Software Developer, ICASA gave a presentation to the Commission about the work they are doing for the Commission in the areas of integration of criminal justice data across the state and the creation of a dashboard of criminal justice data.

Director Smith gave an overview of the work of ICASA. He informed the members of the Commission that ICASA has been working with the Commission since 2018. ICASA works on complex system problems. It was created by statute in 2001, and has the mission of moving forward the research, development, and science of protecting critical infrastructures used by society. Its vision is to train, equip, and deploy a generation of critical thinkers against the complex problems facing a connected and data-rich world. The ICASA workforce spans a wide range of backgrounds, with interdisciplinary faculty from computer science, electrical engineering, information technology, chemical/civil engineering, management, mathematics, and mechanical engineering. They have 41 FTEs, as well as five undergraduate and five graduate students. ICASA focuses on systems that are large scale, human engineered, and are evolving incrementally over time. He gave a number of examples of the kinds of works ICASA does, including creation of a case referral system for New Mexico's district attorney's offices, the New Mexico Healthcare Workforce Dashboard, work on state data governance and integration, and support of the Commission through a variety of data integration projects.

Mr. Brock began the part of the presentation concerning the work ICASA was conducting in conjunction with the Commission. He discussed the work ICASA was doing to help get the Single State Identifier (SID), a number used to track those involved in the criminal justice system, pushed through to court records. ICASA is publishing matching information to the New Mexico dataXchange (NMDX) so that the Administrative Office of the Courts can add SIDs to their court records. He mentioned that a complicating factor is that the SID becomes associated with a similar Federal Bureau of Investigation number for justice-involved individuals, which brings the complication of compliance with Federal regulations. Mr. Brock then moved on to a discussion of the work ICASA was doing to launch the Commission's Criminal Justice

Coordinating Council Data Dashboard. The dashboard is a way to visual criminal justice trends across the state, drawn from 24 data tables. The dashboard was almost finished its development stage, and would soon be moving to testing and feedback, before being launched for the general public. He showed how the dashboard could be used to demonstrate information such as the top crime category for each county, or the number of repeat offenders by county. There will also be a terms and definitions page, to assist those who consult the dashboard who might not be as familiar as criminal justice professionals with specific jargon. Mr. Brock noted that ICASA is using open-source libraries to support this work, so the only ongoing cost after the dashboard is operational would be for hosting.

Mr. McKenna then discussed the work ICASA has been doing to assist the Commission with getting data from New Mexico Corrections Department facilities onto NMDX, and the progress being made to get data from county detention centers uploaded to NMDX. ICASA is also assisting the Commission with internal automation of certain processes, including internal data ingest from the Commission's various criminal justice partners. This decreases overhead for the Commission staff and partners by building data-sharing pipelines for required reports. He concluded by noting that the strong, multi-year partnership between ICASA and the Commission across a variety of projects has fostered the development of technical expertise and has helped the Commission realize its mandate to push the state forward for better data-driven decisions across the criminal justice system.

Members of the Commission asked questions about and discussed the relationship between the SID and the state tracking numbers, and how the tracking number could be integrated into this schema; the importance of the data-integration work; and how the work ICASA is doing relates to the need to re-form JISC.

VII. Grants Committee.

Vice Chair Martin Suazo, Grants Committee Chair, informed the members of the Commission that the Grants Committee had received approximately \$8.5 million in requests, yet had under \$800,000 available to grant. He added that he hoped the lack of monies for the grants in this past Legislative Session's budget was a blip, and that funding would be restored in the coming year. He also informed the members of the Commission that at present the Commission had 41 funded grants, totaling nearly \$6 million. The Grants Committee will meet on May 13 to award grants for the coming fiscal year.

VIII. Legislative Committee.

Vice Chair Suazo, Legislative Committee Chair, informed the members of the Commission that the Legislative Committee had reviewed 101 pieces of House legislation and 74 pieces of Senate legislation. He remarked that it became clear during the Legislative Session that the Legislature was interested in hearing from the Commission on criminal justice legislation that was being considered.

Members of the Commission asked questions about and discussed how better to communicate the Commission's position on issues to the Legislature during a Legislative Session; communications during the Session with the Senate Judiciary Committee specifically; processes the Commission might adopt for when a Commission bill is attached to other legislation that the Commission does not necessarily support; the need for individual Commissioners to help educate legislators on how the Commission works; and that communication with the Legislature did improve in the 2025 Legislative Session.

IX. Juvenile Committee.

Cindy Aragon, Juvenile Committee Chair, informed the members of the Commission that the committee had not met since the Commission's last meeting, but was scheduled to meet at the end of the week. The

meeting will cover an update from 2025 Legislative Session; the possibility of a Special Session on juvenile crime issues; how to better educate legislators on the juvenile justice system; and ideas for legislation to be sponsored by the Committee.

X. Update on the Commission's Intergovernmental Agreement with the University of New Mexico.

Chair Cleavall informed the members of the Commission that as had been discussed at the last meeting of the Commission, he had formed a committee made up of himself, Vice Chair Suazo, and Commissioners Mark Donatelli, Cindy Aragon, Spence Pacheco, and Ben Bauer to review the Commission's intergovernmental agreement (IGA) with the University of New Mexico (UNM). UNM has reviewed the suggested changes and had proposed some amended or alternative language. The process was being mediated by Douglas Alsup, DOJ counsel for the Commission. Ms. Aragon noted that there needed to be clarification of staff oversight and the evaluation process. Mr. Alsup noted that there were questions over how any lobbying or policy discussions the Commission had interacted with UNM policies on lobbying. Chair Cleavall noted the importance of wrapping up the IGA by the end of the fiscal year.

XI. Public Comment.

There was no public comment.

XII. Next Meeting.

The next meeting of the Commission will be held sometime in August.

XIII. Adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.