



**Minutes of the Meeting of the
Grants Committee
9:00 a.m.
December 10, 2024
Executive Board Room,
University of New Mexico Science & Technology Park**

Committee Members Present	Committee Members Absent	Others Attending	NMSC Staff
Martin Suazo, Chair	Sheila McDonald (DPS)		Douglas Carver
Cindy Aragon, Vice Chair (State Bar)	Rick Tedrow (AODA)		Jamie Goldberg
Wes Hatley (NMCD)			Nancy Shane
Anita Mesa (BHSD)			Keri Thiel
Miriam Rabieh (AOC)			
Dennica Torres (LOPD)			

I. Welcome and Introductions.

Martin Suazo, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

II. Approval of Minutes for the October 22, 2024 Meeting.

Upon a motion by Anita Mesa, Behavioral Health Services Division (BHSD), seconded by Wes Hatley, Corrections Department (NMCD), the minutes were approved by a unanimous vote.

III. Staff Report

Douglas Carver, Acting Director, New Mexico Sentencing Commission (NMSC), informed the members of the committee that the NMSC Juvenile Committee had met the prior week and heard a presentation on the new Family Services Division of the Children, Youth, and Families Department and discussed ideas for work in the coming year.

Keri Thiel, Staff Attorney, NMSC, gave an update on the status of the Round 2 grants for FY 25 – four were ready to be signed, 14 more were still in process.

IV. Redistribution of Monies from Non- or Under-Performing Grants.

Nancy Shane, Director of Research, NMSC, informed the members of the committee that monies that were not going to be spent by grants needed to be reallocated or those funds would revert, unless an extension on those funds was put in the budget during the upcoming Legislative Session. She, Staff Attorney Thiel, and Jamie Goldberg, Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) Liaison, NMSC – each of whom acts as a liaison to particular groups of grantees – had flagged grantees who had grant funds that could be rescinded as those grants were not expending their funds at the rate anticipated or were having problems getting their projects started. Chair Suazo informed the members of the committee that the request was that NMSC staff be given permission to rescind monies from the non-performing and under-performing grants.

Members of the committee asked questions about and discussed the timeline for needing to pull back funds from these grants; whether an extension of grant monies would be given to the NMSC in the Legislative Session; how grants were monitored; what communications had occurred between NMSC staff and these grants; the mechanics of rescinding some funds in the agreements signed by the grantees; and the need to inform the members of the committee of what funds were rescinded.

A motion to approve NMSC staff making recommendations for rescinding funds from non-performing and under-performing grants, subject to approval by the committee, was made by Vice Chair Cindy Aragon, seconded by Anita Mesa, Behavioral Health Services Division, was passed with five votes in favor, none against, Dennica Torres, Law Offices of the Public Defender, abstaining.

V. Establishment of Priorities for FY 2026 Grants (to include discussion of opening grants to juvenile programs).

Acting Director Carver directed the attention of the members of the committee to a handout he had prepared showing the grant award priorities that had been determined by the committee at its meeting in May, and the statutory purposes for the grants. Chair Suazo noted that the retention and recruitment grants were a cause of concern at the Legislative Finance Committee. He also noted that there had been discussion of whether the grants could be opened up to programs addressing juveniles, which the committee has not done in the past. He added that assuming the grants were funded at the \$5 million level the NMSC had requested in its FY 26 budget request, it should not be a problem to fund juvenile programs as well as the adult program proposals the committee has historically funded.

Members of the committee asked questions about and discussed what other opportunities existed for funding juvenile programs; whether the committee should decide that a certain percentage of the available funds go to juvenile programs; the potential impact of the Medicaid 1115 Waiver Renewal that was supposed to come through in July; that juvenile justice was a main item of discussion at CJCC meetings; how grants are tracked for effectiveness; whether the funding was available from the public attorneys fund and similar funds that had been created; the effectiveness of the grants to recruit and retain public defenders and district attorneys; the need for data to show that grants are working; whether the committee should consider introducing a bill to amend the grant purposes; grants for travel and site visits, and the need for those to be tied to project deliverables; sustainability of training; evaluation of training grants and difficulties in measuring outcomes from those grants; the need to see when site visits and the like are buried in the grant proposals; and the problems with getting juvenile data.

VI. Timeline for Round 1 of FY 2026 Grants.

After discussion with NMSC staff, it was decided that the next round of grants would open in January, with a closing date for applications at the end of March. The committee would have approximately 30 days to review the grants, with a meeting to award the next round of grants on May 13th.

VII. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Grants Committee was set for May 13, 2025, to disburse Round 1 of the FY 2026 grants.

VIII. Adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 9:55 a.m.