



**Minutes of the Meeting of the  
Grants Committee  
May 13, 2025, 9:30 a.m.**

**Executive Board Room,  
University of New Mexico Science & Technology Park**

<b>Committee Members Present</b>	<b>Committee Members Absent</b>	<b>Others Attending</b>	<b>NMSC Staff</b>
Martin Suazo, Chair	Rick Tedrow (AODA)	Deanna Corriz (AOC)	Douglas Carver
Cindy Aragon, Vice Chair			Amanda Armstrong
Jennifer Barela (LOPD)			Jamie Goldberg
Melanie Martinez (NMCD)			Nancy Shane
Sheila McDonald (DPS)			Keri Thiel
Anita Mesa (BHSD)			
Miriam Rabieh (AOC)			

**I. Welcome and Introductions.**

Martin Suazo, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:46 a.m.

**II. Approval of Minutes for the December 10, 2024 Meeting.**

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

**III. Staff Update on Grants Issues.**

New Mexico Sentencing Commission (NMSC) Executive Director Douglas Carver gave the members of the committee a thorough overview of various issues surrounding grants for the coming fiscal year. He informed the members of the committee that the NMSC received no new monies for grants this year – all the NMSC received was an extension of the grants funds that were appropriated in the 2024 Legislative Session. The Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) expressed concerns about grants that were being used for recruitment and retention, for capital outlay, and for travel training. Representative Meredith Dixon, Vice Chair of the House Appropriations and Finance Committee, introduced a bill (HB 286) to remove the

recruitment and retention purpose. The LFC staff have indicated that they want grants to be given to programs that can be evaluated.

Executive Director Carver continued that as a result of the lack of additional funding in the Legislative Session, the committee only had \$675,000 available to award. This total is made up from monies that NMSC staff allocate towards crime reduction grants in the Commission's base budget, plus monies that have been clawed back from non-performing or under-performing grants. Against that total to award, there are approximately \$8.5 million in requests.

Executive Director Carver presented some recommendations for the committee to consider, as follows:

1. That there be only one round of funding this year;
2. That the committee award less than what was asked for the grants that are given awards, with the stipulation that monies can be added to those grants later in the year, depending on what funds are available, and how the particular grant is performing. He added that it would probably be best to have a consistent number that is the committee's ceiling for grant awards, either 50% or 75% of the requested amount.
3. That no grants be awarded for training, recruitment, retention, capital projects, or for anything that cannot be clearly evaluated

He further indicated that in order to assist the committee as it deliberated on awards, NMSC staff had color-coded the spreadsheet of grants: red indicated a grant that was staff recruitment or retention; orange indicated a grant that had elements of new hires connected to a program; blue indicated a grant that was focused on capital outlay; and yellow indicated a grant that was principally travel for training. He also informed the members of the committee that they had been given a summary of grants, also color coded, sorted by the amount of the request, from highest to lowest. This was as the committee has in the past tried to award grants as widely as possible, and this summary should be useful when considering what to fund. This spreadsheet also shows the total request, the 75% figure, and the 50% figure for each grant application.

Executive Director Carver further recommended that the committee consider putting a notice in the rejection letters that indicates that LFC greatly reduced the funds available for crime reduction grants this year, and that applicants should petition their Senators and House members to restore funding for the grants in the future. Drafts of these letters were provided to members of the committee for review and approval. After reviewing the letters, members of the committee approved the letters as drafted.

#### **IV. Reported Conflicts of Interest.**

Chair Suazo informed the committee that if anyone had a conflict of interest with any of the applicants or applications, they should declare it before deliberations begin. There were no conflicts of interest reported.

#### **V. Sentencing Commission Staff Presentation and Overview of Grant Applications.**

Director of Research Nancy Shane, Staff Attorney Keri Thiel, and Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Liaison Jamie Goldberg – who are the NMSC's three grant liaisons – presented the grant applications for each of their respective judicial districts, working through a handout provided to the Committee.

## **VI. Open Discussion.**

Executive Director Carver thanked the grants liaisons for all of the work they had done to present the grant proposals, particularly the work that was done to break down the budgets for each of the grants so the committee would have a better sense of what was being funded for each grant.

There was some discussion between members of the committee and staff about the monies available, grants that were being extended, the behavioral health funding that should become available after the passage of SB 3 in the recent Legislative Session, and the LFC's concerns.

## **VII. Adjourn into Executive Session: Grant Awards Discussion.**

A motion to adjourn into Executive Session made by Jennifer Barela, Law Offices of the Public Defender (LOPD), seconded by Melanie Martinez, NMCD, passed unanimously.

The Committee adjourned into Executive Session to discuss the applications and make their awards.

## **VIII. Reconvene and Further Discussion.**

There was no further discussion when the committee reconvened.

## **IX. Final Awards with Any Contingencies or Requirements**

Upon a motion by Sheila McDonald, Department of Public Safety (DPS), seconded by Jennifer Barela, LOPD, the committee made the following awards, by unanimous vote:

<b>JD</b>	<b>Agency</b>	<b>Grant Subject</b>	<b>Amount Awarded</b>
1st	LOPD	Safe Surrender	\$35,000
1st	LOPD	Bus Passes	\$675.00
2nd	District Attorney	Gun Violence Program	\$287,698.00
2nd	LOPD	Warrant Forgiveness	\$30,000.00
2nd	Metro Court	Outreach Court Incentives	\$5,000
2nd	Metro Court	Transportation Services	\$10,000
2nd	LOPD	Re-entry Center Staffing	\$60,000.00
2nd	Bernalillo County	Housing Vouchers	\$30,000.00
3rd	District Court	Treatment Courts	\$40,000.00
4th	District Court	GPS Devices	\$5,000.00
5th	District Court	Hygiene Closet	\$1,500.00

6th	Luna County DBA Juvenile Justice Continuum of Services	Juvenile Services/Pathways to Success	\$49,515.00
6th	Hidalgo County	Day Habilitation	\$19,687.00
8th	New Hope Family Counseling,	Restorative Justice	\$30,000.00
9th	District Court	Pretrial Services	\$25,000.00
11th	Farmington Police Department	San Juan Domestic Violence Support	\$15,750.00
11th	District Court	Transportation Services	\$8,500.00
12th	LOPD	Bus Passes	\$675.00
13th	Valencia County	Monitoring and Urinalysis	\$21,000.00

The total amount awarded was \$675,000

A motion that NMSC staff be allowed to adjust the grants awarded by rescinding monies from underperforming grants and adding monies to grants that were performing well, was made by Anita Mesa, BHSD, and seconded by Sheila McDonald, DPS. The motion passed unanimously.

**X. Next Meeting/Need for Round 2?**

The committee decided that there would not be a need for a second round of grant awards this fiscal year. No date was set for the next meeting of the committee.

**XI. Adjourn.** The meeting adjourned at 11:58 a.m.