

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
ADVISORY COUNCIL ON WORKERS' COMPENSATION AND
OCCUPATIONAL DISEASE DISABLEMENT
MEETING MINUTES
September 1, 2026

Location: Workers' Compensation Administration Office, Albuquerque, NM

Council Members Present:

Marni Goodrich, Chair
Darrell Deaguero
Courtenay Eichhorst
Sara Ranney
Annie Lynn Scoggin
Christopher John O'Sickey
Acting Director Alexis Armijo, ex-officio

I. Call to Order and Introductions:

Chair Marni Goodrich called the meeting to order at 2:34. Council members and attendees introduced themselves. Members of the audience were also invited to introduce themselves—many of them being new hires to the agency.

II. Approval of Agenda

Darrell Deaguero motioned to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Christopher O'Sickey and approved unanimously.

III. Approval of Minutes, March 17, 2026

Darrell Deaguero motioned to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Sara Ranney and carried unanimously.

IV. Director Status of Agency Report

The Acting Director expressed her gratitude for her role and for participating in her first Advisory Council as Acting Director, and she shared that it has been a busy past few months at the Workers' Compensation Administration.

The WCA has experienced several leadership and staffing changes in recent months. Former Director Heather Jordan retired at the end of May, and former General Counsel Michael Holt retired in June. Bill Grigg is currently serving as Acting General Counsel. The agency has also welcomed several new employees and has reduced its vacancy rate to approximately 10%.

The WCA launched CaseXellence on June 8, 2026, and later determined that the system was not meeting the agency's operational needs. The WCA transitioned back to its previous electronic case filing system on July 17. Since that transition, the agency has continued reviewing filings and addressing issues associated with the change in systems. Attorneys were asked to review filings submitted between June 8 and July 17 to confirm that their documents appear correctly in ECF. The agency is continuing to evaluate its long-term technology needs and has not selected a replacement system at this time.

For FY28, the WCA and Uninsured Employers' Fund are requesting a combined appropriation of approximately \$16 million, with personnel needs representing a significant area of focus. The Acting Director is scheduled to meet with the Legislative Finance Committee in October.

The WCA recently celebrated its 40th anniversary during the agency's annual All Hands event, which brought together employees from the Albuquerque office and field offices. Speakers included Justice Briana Zamora, who previously served as a WCA mediator, and Marty Chavez, the agency's first director.

The WCA continues to expand outreach and public education efforts with an emphasis on reaching workers, employers, and communities throughout New Mexico. Recent efforts have focused on meeting people where they are and increasing awareness of workers' compensation resources and services.

The agency remains focused on stabilizing operations, maintaining service delivery, and evaluating future technology and financial needs. The Council discussed the agency's current case management system and future technology planning. No replacement system has been selected, and future decisions will depend in part on available funding.

V. IME Committee Membership

Chair Marni Goodrich is present on behalf of Ronda Gilliland-Lopez. The group discussed keeping Gilliland-Lopez as Independent Medical Examination (IME) Chair, and Goodrich asked if they need something in writing from Gilliland-Lopez to stay chair.

Courtenay Eichhorst motioned to keep Ronda Gilliland-Lopez as IME chair, which was seconded by Annie Lynn Scoggin and passed unanimously.

Advisory Council Chair Marni Goodrich is following up with Gilliland-Lopez via email.

VI. Legislative Sub Committee Update:

The Council discussed workforce trends in the trades, including growth in construction employment associated with new projects across the state. Members noted an increase in younger workers entering construction and firefighting and discussed the importance of ensuring new workers understand workplace safety and what to do after an injury. The discussion highlighted the need for education that goes beyond required safety training and helps young workers understand how to respond when an injury occurs.

The Council also noted that no early bill language had been identified at this time. Acting Director Armijo agreed to share the dates and times of the agency's October Legislative Finance Committee meeting with Council members interested in attending.

VII. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

The Council provided background on its history and purpose for new WCA employees in attendance. Members also discussed prior transfers from the workers' compensation fund to the Department of Workforce Solutions and the resulting decline in agency reserves.

VIII. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, Dec 7, 2026, at 2:30 p.m., at the Workers' Compensation Administration office in Albuquerque.

IX. Adjourn:

Courtenay Eichhorst motioned and Darrell Deaguero seconded to adjourn the meeting at 3:10 p.m.