CEO Meeting
Tuesday, August 25, 2026, 10:00 AM MST

NALWDB Conference Room
525 Camino De Los Marquez
Suite 250
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Cibola County	Present/ZOOM
Colfax County	Excused
Los Alamos County	Present/ZOOM
McKinnley County	Excused
Mora County	Present
Rio Arriba County	Present
Santa Fe County	Present
San Juan County	Excused
San Miguel County	Present
Taos County	Present

Present: 7, Absent: 3.

Also in attendance: NALWDB Staff: Lisa Ortiz - Executive Director, Barney Trujillo - Operations Manager, Ruthie Mares – Quality Assurance Specialist, Brittany Valencia – Program/Finance Specialist, Issy Lozano – Program Support Specialist. **Guests:** Rick Sandoval – Zlotnick & Sandoval, Ericka Van Eckhoutte – Adult/DW Director, Waldy Salazar – NMDWS, Ramon Pazos – NMDWS, Rosina Espinoza – NMDWS, Chanin O'Rourke – NMDWS, Julio Garcia – Legal Counsel, Carolyn Kirlin – NMDWS, Crystal Hollon – NMDWS, Pablo Lujan – Board Member, Nina Valdez – One Stop Operator, Robert Chavez – YDI CEO, Joseph Weathers – NALWDB Chairman.

1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 AM by Alex Naranjo – Commissioner Chairman of Rio Arriba County.

2. Roll Call and Determination of a Quorum

Roll call was conducted by NALWDB Program Support Specialist Issy Lozano, who indicated that a quorum was present.

At 10:05 a.m., Commissioner Camilla Bustamante of Santa Fe County joined the meeting in person.

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3. Pledge of Allegiance

The pledge of allegiance was recited by all in attendance.

4. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda. This Motion was made by Martin Sena – Commissioner Vice Chair San Miguel County, seconded by Brent Jaramillo – County Manager of Taos County, and passed unanimously by rollcall vote.

During discussion, Chairman Joseph Weathers respectfully requested that Agenda Item 6.1, YDI Complaint—Robert Chavez, including Item 6.1A, Roles and Responsibilities & ByLaws, and 6.1B, Legal Opinion, be tabled because the agenda did not specify the action to be considered or voted upon. He believed the lack of specificity could present an Open Meetings Act concern. Chairman Alex Naranjo referred the matter to Legal Counsel Julio Garcia for his opinion.

Legal Counsel Julio Garcia advised that action items generally require more specific language describing the possible action, such as the potential removal of a board member, to ensure compliance with the Open Meetings Act. Waldy Salazar, Division Director of Employment Services for NMDWS, clarified that the State had provided consultation regarding the agenda but that he did not recall approving the final agenda or the specific action item.

Executive Director Lisa Ortiz confirmed that the legal notice was posted, and the agenda was distributed to all CEO Committee members before the meeting. Legal Counsel Garcia recommended that the Committee refrain from taking action due to the lack of specificity but advised that discussion of the materials could still occur.

Based on Legal Counsel's recommendation, Vice Chair Martin Sena made a motion to table Item 6.1, YDI Complaint—Robert Chavez, including Item 6.1A, Roles and Responsibilities and Bylaws, and Item 6.1B, Legal Opinion, until a future meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Camilla Bustamante and passed unanimously by roll-call vote.

5. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the Board meeting minutes from February 18, 2026. This Motion was made by Martin Sena – Commissioner Vice Chair San Miguel County, seconded by Camilla Bustamante – Commissioner of Santa Fe County, and passed unanimously by rollcall vote.

6. Action Items

6.1 YDI Complaint.

6.1A. Roles and Responsibilities & ByLaws

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6.1B. Legal Opinion.

Chairman Alex Naranjo stated that the tabled items would be addressed at the next regular meeting to avoid further delays.

Robert Chavez, CEO of YDI, requested that Chairman Joseph Weathers recuse himself from all discussions and deliberations concerning YDI until the complaint is resolved. Chairman Weathers stated that he had abstained from voting on YDI-related matters since the complaint was submitted but noted his responsibility to conduct Local Board meetings.

Legal Counsel Julio Garcia advised that no official action could be taken on the request because it was not listed as an action item on the agenda. He noted that Chairman Weathers had abstained from voting since the matter was disclosed at an open meeting and stated that he was unaware of any private deliberations or decisions that would create liability under the Open Meetings Act. To avoid the appearance of impropriety, Legal Counsel recommended that Chairman Weathers refrain from participating in any official action concerning YDI until the matter is resolved. Chairman Weathers acknowledged and agreed to follow the recommendation.

Commissioner Camilla Bustamante asked whether Mr. Chavez's request included having Chairman Weathers absent from discussions due to the sensitive nature of the matter. Legal Counsel Julio Garcia clarified that the request was for the CEO Committee to direct Chairman Weathers not to participate in deliberations or official action. He reiterated that the Committee could not take such action because it was not properly listed on the agenda and noted that Chairman Weathers had voluntarily abstained from voting since the matter was first raised.

Vice Chair Martin Sena raised a point of order, noting that Item 5, Approval of the Meeting Minutes, had been inadvertently skipped. Chairman Alex Naranjo acknowledged the oversight and returned the Committee to Item 5, Approval of the Meeting Minutes.

7. Discussion Item

7.1 USDOL Findings – Lisa Ortiz.

Executive Director Lisa Ortiz provided an update regarding the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) desk review of WIOA-funded participant files from Program Years 2022, 2023, and 2024. She explained that USDOL reviewed approximately $12 million in funding used to serve approximately 1,200 participants throughout the Northern Region's 10 counties.

USDOL determined that 11 participants, representing approximately $91,000 in questioned costs, were ineligible because they did not meet the federal definitions of unemployment or inconsistent work history. The participants received work-based learning services through partner organizations, including the Bloomfield Police Department, Southwest Indian Foundation, Industrial Workforce Program, and House Youth and Family Center. Ms. Ortiz stated that the Northern Board considered the

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participants eligible at the time of enrollment based on their barriers to employment and did not consider the questioned costs to involve fraud or misuse of funds.

The Northern Board planned to submit a final summary and supporting documentation to USDOL the following day to demonstrate the participants' eligibility. The Board would await USDOL's response before discussing any potential reimbursement to the WIOA grant with the CEO Committee.

8. Announcements.

Executive Director Lisa Ortiz invited CEO Committee members to share announcements from their respective counties. Commissioner Camilla Bustamante announced that Santa Fe County would issue a proclamation in September recognizing Disability Employment Awareness Month.

Vice Chair Martin Sena asked whether Samaritan House in Las Vegas had applied for housing-related grant funding through Workforce Solutions and whether the application was being processed locally or through the State. Executive Director Lisa Ortiz stated that the Northern Board or NMDWS would look into the matter.

9. Informational Reports

9.1 Fiscal Agent Report – Rick Sandoval

Fiscal Agent Rick Sandoval presented the preliminary financial report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026. Total expenditures were approximately $3.8 million of the $5.4 million budget, keeping the Board within overall budget requirements. The report remained preliminary while outstanding invoices and adjustments were reconciled, with final financials expected by the end of September.

A pending item involved a $14,900 workers' compensation insurance refund that would instead be applied as a credit toward the next policy period. Negative amounts under One-Stop Facility Costs represented partner reimbursements for shared rent and operating expenses. A $122,000 variance in this category resulted from staff relocating and two service providers occupying the former space.

All funds scheduled to expire by June 30, 2026, were fully utilized. Program Year 2026 funds were 45% expended and 65% obligated, meeting the 40% expenditure requirement but not the 80% obligation benchmark. The Adult program met its requirements, while the Dislocated Worker and Youth programs remained underutilized. Remaining Dislocated Worker funds must be expended by June 30, 2027.

Executive Director Lisa Ortiz explained that UPIN is a partner referral system for which NMDWS will reimburse eligible staff time. The new funding allocation decreased by approximately 10% from the prior year. Staff will continue working with service providers to improve fund utilization.

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9.2 Executive Director Report – Lisa Ortiz

Executive Director Lisa Ortiz reported that the financial audit with Hinkle + Landers was underway and expected to be completed by December. She also stated that PY25 would close with 10 of 15 performance measures achieved. Staff and service providers, including Career TEAM and YDI, will continue outreach and new participant enrollments across the Northern Region.

10. Public Comment

Ericka Van Eckhoutte, Executive Director of Career TEAM, announced two regional workforce initiatives. Career TEAM, YDI, Unlocking Life, and Casa Chimayo are partnering to offer the From Prep to Profession culinary training in Santa Fe. Participants will receive hands-on instruction from Executive Chef Joaquin Quintana, workforce-readiness training, and ServSafe certification. The program is open to eligible youth and adults, with a focus on justice-impacted individuals.

She also announced the Road to Opportunity initiative, beginning in Las Vegas, New Mexico. The eight-week program will provide CDL and Heavy Equipment Operator training, personal protective equipment, employer interviews, and potential job placements and On-the-Job Training opportunities with the City of Las Vegas. Up to five additional classes may be offered throughout the Northern Region based on local needs and employer partnerships.

11. Next Meeting Date: September 09, 2026 @10am

12. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 10:40 A.M. This Motion was made by Camilla Bustamante, Commissioner of Santa Fe County, seconded by DesMarie Romero – Count Manager of Mora County, and passed unanimously by rollcall vote.

An Executive Session may be called at any time during the meeting. Pursuant to New Mexico Open Meetings Act Section 10-15-1 (H) Subsections; (1) Meetings pertaining g to issuance, suspension, renewal or revocation of a license, except that a hearing at which evidence is offered or rebutted shall be open. All final actions on the issuance, suspension, renewal or revocation of a license shall be taken at an open meeting; (2) Limited personnel matters; provided that for purposes of the Open Meetings Act, "limited personnel matters" means the discussion of hiring,

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promotion , demotion, dismissal, assignment or resignation of or the investigation or consideration of complaints or charges against any individual public employee; provided further that this paragraph is not to be construed as to exempt final actions on personnel from being taken at open public meetings, nor does it preclude an aggrieved public employee from demanding a public hearing. Judicial candidates interviewed by any commission shall have the right to demand an open interview; (3) Deliberations by a public body in connection with an administrative adjudicatory proceedings For purposes of this paragraph, "administrative adjudicatory proceeding" means a proceeding brought by or against a person before a public body in which individual legal rights, duties or privileges are required by law to be determined by the public body after an opportunity for a trial-type hearing. Except as otherwise provided in this section, the actual administrative adjudicatory proceeding at which evidence is offered or rebutted and any final action taken as a result of the proceeding shall occur in an open meeting; (4) The discussion of personally identifiable information about any individual student, unless the student or the student's parent or guardian requests otherwise; (5) Meetings for the discussion of bargaining strategy preliminary to collective bargaining negotiations between the policymaking body and a bargaining unit representing the employees of that policymaking body and collective bargaining sessions at which the policymaking body and the representatives of the collective bargaining unit are present; (6) that portion of meetings at which a decision concerning purchases in an amount exceeding two thousand five hundred dollars ($2,500) that can be made only from one source is discussed and that portion of meetings at which the contents of competitive sealed proposals solicited pursuant to the Procurement Code are discussed during the contract negotiation process. (7) Meetings subject to the attorney-client privilege pertaining to threatened or pending litigation in which the public body is or may become participant; (8) Meetings for the discussion of the purchase, acquisition or disposal of real property or water rights by the public body.

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