



OFFICE OF FAMILY
REPRESENTATION AND ADVOCACY
Improving lives through outstanding advocacy

**Oversight Commission
Meeting Minutes
April 24, 2023**

Roll Call

In attendance:

Chair Monica Zamora, Retired, Court of Appeals
Vice Chair Judge John F. Davis, Retired, 13th Judicial District
Cristen Conley, JD, Director, Corinne Wolfe Center for Child and Family Justice
Ms. Monica R. Corica, JD, NM Legal Aid
Hector Diaz, Ph.D., Director and Professor, School of Social Work, NMSU
Shaniah Gallegos, Youth Leader
Elena Giacci, Trainer and Advocate
Twila Hoon, JD, CAAP Director, NM Administrative Office of the Courts
Bernie Lopez, Parent Advocate
Senator Linda Lopez, NM State Senate, District 11
Pamela Pierce, JD, CEO Silver Bullet Productions

OFRA Director

Beth Gillia, JD

Absent:

Cathyanna Sedillo, Youth Leader
Representative Gail Chasey, NM House of Representatives, District 18

I. Call to Order/Welcome

Chair Monica Zamora, Commission Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:32pm.

II. Announcements (Informational)

- Chair Zamora introduced Timothy Flynn-O'Brien who will serve as Cristen Conley's designee on the Oversight Commission. Tim then introduced himself and described his background. Cristen explained that she is appointing a designee because her responsibility at the Corinne Wolfe Center for Child and

Family Justice, namely training and supports for attorneys and judges, could create a conflict as she will pursue training work with OFRA.

- Beth Gillia introduced Lisa Fitting as the Administrative Services Division Director and described her background as well as her work going forward. Lisa introduced herself and Members welcomed her to OFRA.

III. Adoption of Agenda – Commission Chair Monica Zamora (Approval/Action)

John Davis moved and Elena Giacci seconded the adoption of the agenda. There were no amendments. The agenda was approved unanimously.

IV. Approval of the Minutes – Commission Chair Monica Zamora (Approval/Action)

- March 23, 2023 Special Meeting: Linda Lopez moved and Twila seconded the motion to approve the March 23, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes. There were no corrections or additions. The Minutes were approved unanimously.
- March 27, 2023 Regular Meeting: John Davis moved and Elena Giacci seconded the motion to approve the March 27, 2023 Meeting Minutes. There were no corrections or additions. The Minutes were approved unanimously.

V. Finalize first three Sub-Committees - Judge Monica Zamora, Commission Chair (Approval/Action)

Chair Zamora announced that most members signed up for a sub-committee. Chair Zamora will reach out to those members who have not yet signed up. Once everyone is signed up, Mary Ann will schedule meetings the first week of June.

VI. Update on Mission, Vision, Guiding Principles & Launch of Website - Judge Monica Zamora, Commission Chair, Beth Gillia, Director, Mary Ann Shaening, Consultant (Informational)

Chair Zamora announced that the OFRA website has launched. The Mission, Vision, and Guiding Principles were updated following the Special Meeting on March 23, 2023. Chair Zamora and Mary Ann asked that Members and Interested Parties go to the website and “subscribe.” In the future, this will be the mailing list for all OFRA business. The Website is www.familyrepresentationm.org. Chair Zamora also noted that there is a “Commission Members Only” page with a special password that Mary Ann has provided to Members. Beth Gillia noted that if Members wanted additional changes to the Mission, Vision, and Guiding Principles, they should let Monica, Mary Ann and Beth know.

VII. Budget for FY2024 - Beth Gillia, Director (Informational)

Beth shared her screen to provide an image of the budget summary. This is a brief budget, due on Monday, and there are still some missing pieces. The budget summary is as follows showing Personnel, Contractual and Other as well as one-time money for furniture, equipment, and the case management system. She also discussed the \$1.5 Million that actually doesn't exist but will be budgeted for in the unlikely event the funds are produced. Beth noted that the amounts in HB2 are vastly different from the OFRA proposed budget. Since OFRA has budget adjustment authority, this should not be a problem. There was some additional discussion about the \$1.5 Million.

A	B	C	D	E	F
	HB2	OFRA	DIFF		
Personnel (S/FB)	\$ 6,194,000.00	\$ 1,821,935.00		18 positions in Alb.	
Contractual	\$ 3,891,700.00	\$ 6,789,200.00			
Other	\$ 444,300.00	\$ 480,147.00			
TOTAL	\$ 10,530,000.00	\$ 9,091,282.00	\$ 1,438,718.00		

VIII. Policy Statements – first draft – to be voted upon in June - Judge Monica Zamora, Commission Chair, Beth Gillia, Director, Mary Ann Shaening, Consultant (Informational)

Chair Zamora reminded the Members that the Family Representation Commission (FRC) drafted recommendations that included both policy and practice. Mary Ann extracted and wrote “Policy Statements” from these materials and these have been sent to all Members. Members are asked to provide input by May 19, 2023, using Track Changes. Chair Zamora and Beth are looking to see if these will fall under the State Rules Act. We know that practices fall under that Act but we are not sure about Commission Policies. Cristen Conley noted she has suggestions for Language Access. She also asked whether we would include what attorneys are expected to do in our policies. (Are we just looking at policies for the Office or also looking at policies about attorney actions?) Mary Ann noted that these Policy Statements are not all-inclusive; these are the ones that FRC discussed. There will be others and Members are asked to suggest what these should be. Beth noted that we always need to be mindful of what falls under the purview of the Office and what falls under the purview of the Commission. The Statute doesn’t give OFRA rule making authority and we may need to amend the Statute accordingly. Monica Corica asked that Member edits just go to Mary Ann for compilation; everyone agreed. Elena Giacci noted Members need to balance staying in their governance role with statements of the Commissions aspirations and highest goals without micromanaging Beth and the staff. Mary Ann reminded Members that the Governance Sub-Committee will finalize roles for the Commission. She also reiterated that these are not necessarily in a format or language that may ultimately be required; they are more aspirational.

IX. Public Input (Informational)

Tim Flynn-O’Brien suggested that training for attorneys and other staff include ethical obligations and professional standards and Beth concurred.

Bernie Lopez asked if we don’t have enough money to serve all the clients, what we will do. Beth explained that we will provide legal representation for all children, youth, and parents. We do not have enough money to provide interdisciplinary legal teams to all clients.

Sherri Trescott thanked everyone for all their hard work. Chair Zamora noted that OFRA wants to do more to support attorneys.

Mary Anne D’Arcangelis thanked Judge Zamora for her previous work in Children’s Court. She notes that the last few months have been stressful and was glad to hear it reiterated that OFRA wants to extend more support to attorneys.

Beth asked everyone to look at the Operating Principles especially those that refer to valuing attorneys and others who serve families.

Nicoletta Spilca noted that some of the policies reflect changes from prior practice. She asks her colleagues to be open to these changes. She noted her appreciation of the Commission supporting these changes and endorsing the support of attorneys.

X. Other Business

Chair Zamora thanked Cristen Conley for her service. Cristen reminded everyone that her departure comes from the possible conflict of interest in that the Corinne Wolfe Center provides training to attorneys. She also thanked Tim again for stepping in.

The next meeting is June 26, 2023 at 3:30 via Zoom

X. Adjournment of Meeting – Commission Chair Monica Zamora (Approval/Action)

Monica Corica moved and Cristen Conley seconded the motion to adjourn; the motion was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 4:36pm.