

**Office of Family Representation and Advocacy  
Oversight Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
January 23, 2023 via Zoom**

**Roll Call**

**In attendance:**

**Members:**

Co-Chair Judge John F. Davis, Retired, 13<sup>th</sup> 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

**OFRA Director:**

Beth Gillia, JD

**Absent:**

Representative Gail Chasey, NM House of Representatives, District 18  
Senator Linda Lopez, NM State Senate, District 11  
Pamela Pierce, JD, CEO Silver Bullet Productions  
Cathyanna Sedillo, Youth Leader  
Judge M. Monica Zamora, Retired, Court of Appeals

**I. Call to Order/Welcome**

Judge John Davis, Commission Co-Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:31pm and conducted the roll call.

**II. Announcements (Informational)**

- Children’s Law Institute – participants at the CLI agreed it was a great event
- Cristen Conley announced that the Corinne Wolfe Center for Child and Family Justice will offer the 3rd Annual Essentials of Child and Family Welfare Practice on February 28<sup>th</sup> and March 7<sup>th</sup>.

**III. Adoption of Agenda – Judge John Davis, Commission Co-Chair (Approval/Action)**

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

#### **IV. Approval of the Minutes – Judge John Davis, Commission Co-Chair (Approval/Action)**

- December 6, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Monica Corica moved and Dr. Diaz seconded the adoption of the December 6, 2023 Meeting Minutes. There were no corrections or additions. The minutes were approved unanimously.

- December 19, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Twila Hoon moved and Elena Giacci seconded the adoption of the December 19, 2023 Meeting Minutes. Paragraph four, sentence one, was changed from “agenda” to “minutes.” The minutes were approved unanimously.

#### **V. Open Meeting Act Resolution - Judge John Davis, Commission Co-Chair & Mary Ann Shaening (Approval/Action)**

Mary Ann noted that we need to pass a resolution to comply with the Open Meetings Act. There is still one item that needs clarification. This needs to be tabled until the February 27, 2023 meeting. Elena Giacci moved and Twila Hoon seconded the motion to table the resolution until February. The motions passed unanimously.

#### **VI. Legislative Attendance - Judge John Davis, Commission Co-Chair & Mary Ann Shaening (Informational)**

Beth and Mary Ann presented on how and why to reach out to Legislators, first to the House Appropriations and Finance Committee (HAFC) that has two budgets in front of them – LFC and DFA. DFA’s budget comes closer to our request and we need to ask that HAFC to select the DFA budget. Beth explained that HAFC usually goes with the lower budget. Overall, we want the \$5.3M in place at AOC, \$5.7M new dollars to create a base of \$11M. That \$11M can be matched with approximately \$2.5M federal IVE funds. DFA recommends \$3.2M new money; LFC recommends \$1.2M new money.

Mary Ann and Beth are asking all Members to call if they can. The discussion was then opened and included clarification of the IVE funds, essentially 25% of what State spends on representation, and how the reimbursement works through CYFD; who is on the list of HAFC Members and what their role is; what if you don’t know anyone on the list and what to say; what’s the best time to call (maybe morning before bills are read per Bernie); following up with an email or going to the roundhouse to leave a note; having non-Commission Members make calls; why would legislators not fund what they created; and the importance of a quick and definitive message;

Beth emphasized that we keep the focus on children and families, saying that OFRA and its model will make a difference in their lives. Beth also added that people do not understand the interdisciplinary model and they need to hear about the impact that will result from having social workers and peers partner with attorneys. Monica Corica noted the importance of this work and model statewide with quality oversight, training, and supports, items not heretofore available.

#### **VII. Strategic Planning Retreat - Judge John Davis, Commission Co-Chair & Mary Ann Shaening (Informational)**

Mary Ann reported that Commission Co-Chair Monica Zamora is suggesting we have a retreat to set priorities and strategies, perhaps four hours on a Saturday. Dr. Diaz noted that this is a great idea but he is not available on Saturdays. Co-Chair Davis agreed that this was a good idea and should be in-person. We will come up with a specific proposal and conduct a Doodle Poll to ascertain availability.

**VIII. Public Input (Informational)**

None.

**IX. Other Business**

Next Meeting: February 27, 2023

(Judge Davis and Beth again emphasized making calls with a child and family-centric message. Susan Weiss suggested people let Beth and Mary Ann what the responses are.)

**X. Adjournment of Meeting – Judge Monica Zamora, Commission Co-Chair, Judge John Davis, Commission Co-Chair (Approval/Action)**

Monica Corica moved and Elena Giacci seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 4:45pm. Co-Chair Davis thanked everyone for their efforts.