Family Representation and Advocacy Commission

October 26, 2026, 3:00 pm – 3:55 pm

Hybrid Meeting

3:

Draft Minutes - Prepared October 28, 2026

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Members in Attendance	Members Absent
Chair Tim Flynn-O'Brien, in person	Joanna DeLaney
Alison Pauk, virtual	Bernie Lopez
Cristen Conley, in person	Linda Lopez
Elena Giacci, virtual	Abbigale Martinez
Pamelya Herndon, virtual	
Vice Chair John Davis, virtual	
Beth Gillia, in person	
Pamela Pierce, virtual	
Mary Nienow, virtual	

I. Call to Order/Welcome.

Chair Flynn-O'Brien called the meeting to order at 3:03 pm; attendance was taken by roll call to ensure a quorum was present.

II. Adoption of Agenda. No changes proposed.

Motion: Vice Chair Davis moved to adopt the agenda; motion was seconded by Commissioner Conley
Outcome: Agenda approved unanimously

III. Announcements. No announcements were made.

IV. Approval of Minutes from August General Meeting and September Special Meeting

Motion to approve August Meeting Minutes: Commissioner Conley moved to approve, motion was seconded by Commissioner Nienow
Outcome: Minutes approved unanimously.

Motion to approve September Special Meeting Minutes: Commissioner Pauk moved to approve, motion was seconded by Commissioner Herndon
Outcome: Minutes approved unanimously.

V. Consideration of Proposed Rule on the Rulemaking Process

Executive Director Gillia summarized the proposed OFRA rule governing the Commission's rulemaking process. Key points:

- Public hearing held; no oral or written comments received.
- One amendment added: hearings will maintain **audio recording** rather than a transcript.
- Notice was posted in the NM Register, Sunshine Portal, and OFRA website.

Motion to approve Proposed Rule and Rulemaking Process: Commissioner Conley moved to adopt the rule; motion was seconded by Commissioner Davis
Outcome: The Motion to adopt the rule passed unanimously.

VI. Consideration of FY26 Budget Deficiency Request and FY27 Budget Supplemental Request

FY26 Budget Deficiency Request

Executive Director Gillia explained:

- Due to declining federal Title IV-E recoupment, OFRA recovered **87%** of projected reimbursement, leaving a **$355,084.32** shortfall (after all budget adjustments were made)
- OFRA did not overspend the budget; the deficit results from lower-than-authorized federal reimbursement.

Motion to approve FY26 Budget Deficiency Request:
Commissioner Davis moved the motion; motion was seconded by Commissioner Conley
Outcome: Passed unanimously.

FY27 Supplemental Budget Request

Executive Director Gillia described two compounding issues:

1. **Increased case filings:** projected **$309,000** overrun for contract attorney expenses.
2. **Further decline in Title IV-E recoupment:** estimated **$407,411** revenue shortfall.

Rounded request totals **$850,000**, providing minimal operational cushion.

Motion to approve FY27 Budget Supplemental Request
Commissioner Davis moved the motion; motion was seconded by Commissioner Conley
Outcome: Passed unanimously.

VII. OFRA Commission Retreat

Commissioner Conley reported the following concerning the possible Commission Retreat:

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- Difficulty finding a date with broad commissioner availability.
- Travel barriers cited for commissioners outside central NM.
- Retreat intended as **informational only**, without decision-making, to avoid Open Meetings Act complications.

Commissioners discussed:

- whether to postpone the retreat until after the legislative session, but did not decide on a date,
- the importance of Commissioner recommitment, attendance expectations, and the need for cohesiveness,
- per diem/mileage reimbursement concerns, and
- the need for independent legal counsel for the Commission.

No motions made; no votes taken; planning group will continue gathering availability of Commissioners for a future retreat.

VIII. Commissioners' Open Forum

Topics raised:

- **Meeting time accessibility:** Youth members and working commissioners struggle with 3–5 p.m. scheduling.
- Need for potential meeting time adjustments to increase participation.
- Suggestion by Commissioner Conley to use simplified polling/survey tool to assist in determining future meeting options.

IX. Public Comment

Alexandra Bobbit expressed concern about comments in a legislative committee hearing and requested OFRA's assistance in clarifying the record. She also expressed concern over comments suggesting contract attorneys perform less effectively than staff attorneys, requesting access to the data referenced and urging acknowledgment of the workload contract attorneys carry.

Chair Flynn-O'Brien and Commissioners thanked her and sought clarification.

No additional public comments were made.

X. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn by Commissioner Conley. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Herndon.
Outcome: Passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 3:55 p.m.

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