

# STATE OF NEW MEXICO ADULT PAROLE BOARD

Michelle Lujan Grisham, Governor

Abram Anaya, Chair

## Members

Caryn Apodaca  
Dorothy Pouges  
Amy Lopez  
Roberta Lucero-Ortega  
Kristine Ring  
Colleen McCarney



Roberta Cohen  
Executive Director

## Members

Janet Chandler  
Anne Murray  
Mary Jaramillo-Barraza  
Carol Slavens  
Whitney Steinmetz  
Charles Tully

## New Mexico Adult Parole Board Quarterly Meeting Minutes March 31, 2026

---

### 1. Call to Order

- Chairman Abram Anaya called the meeting to order at 9:07am and confirmed the meeting was conducted in accordance with the Open Meetings Act. The meeting was recorded in its entirety.
- 

### 2. Roll Call

- Executive Director Roberta Cohen called roll.

#### Members Present:

- Chairman Abram Anaya
- Dorothy Pouges
- Janet Chandler
- Amy Lopez
- Mary Jaramillo-Barraza
- Caryn Apodaca
- Ann Murray
- Carol Slavens
- Roberta Lucero Ortega
- Colleen McCartney
- Whitney Steinmetz (Zoom)

#### Members Not Present:

- Christine Ring
- Charles Tully
- A quorum was established.

**Also Present:**

- Roberta Cohen, Executive Director
- Lola Rael, Office Manager
- Douglas Wilber, Board Legal Counsel

**Guests Present:**

- Victor Jacko
- Taylene Jacko
- Mary Jaramillo-Barraza
- Veronica M. Diaz
- Forrest Beard
- Lupe Sanchez
- Anisa Griego Quintana
- Francine Garcia
- Haven Scogin
- Labriana Belmontes
- Stephen Taylor

---

**3. Approval of Agenda**

- The agenda for March 31, 2026, was approved.
  - **Motion:** To adopt the agenda as presented, and motion approved by Chairman Anaya.
  - **Second:** Motion seconded by Member Apodaca.
  - **Vote:** Approved unanimously by roll call vote.

---

**4. Approval of Minutes**

- Minutes from the December 02, 2025

- **Motion:** To approve the December 02, 2025, minutes as presented, motion approved by member Chandler.
  - **Second:** Motion Seconded by member Murray.
  - **Vote:** Approved unanimously by roll call vote
- 

## 5.1 Chair Report

### A. Legislative Updates

- **Senate Bill 43 (SB43):**
  - Signed into law; effective May 20, 2026.
  - Administrative rule development is underway.
  - An ad hoc committee will be formed to assist with rulemaking and implementation.

## 5.2 Director Report

### A. Office Staff Update

- New staff introductions included:
  - Management Analyst
  - Records Coordinator
- Staff are actively training and contributing to improved administrative operations and packet preparation.

### B. Technology and Systems Update

- Continued transition from CMIS to Omni system.
- Challenges noted:
  - Loss of standardized reporting formats
  - Increased reliance on manual documentation/screenshots
  - Adjustment to new inmate identification numbers
- Ongoing coordination with NMCD and Probation & Parole to improve consistency.

### C. Digitization Project

- Funding (~\$179,000) approved for digitizing parole records.

- Estimated completion timeline: approximately 9 months.

## **D. Board Training**

- Board members approved to attend a national training in July.
  - Emphasis placed on strengthening board knowledge and professional development.
- 

## **6. New Business**

### **6.1 Crossroads/Abides Program Presentation Overview**

- A presentation was provided regarding the **Crossroads/Abide program**, a community-based reentry and treatment resource.
- The program focuses on:
  - Substance abuse recovery support
  - Structured transitional living
  - Reintegration services for justice-involved individuals

#### **Key Components**

- Provides a structured, supportive environment for individuals transitioning from incarceration
- Focus on:
  - Accountability
  - Sobriety support
  - Life skills development
- May include:
  - Case management
  - Peer support
  - Access to treatment services

#### **Relevance to the Board**

- Crossroads is one of several **housing and treatment options** considered in parole planning
- Participation requirements and program rules must be:
  - Reviewed during parole plan approval
  - Considered alongside individual treatment needs (including MAT)

### **6.2 Interstate Compact Update Presentation**

- Overview of the Interstate Compact for Adult Offender Supervision and its core purposes.
  - Effective new rule amendments including:
    - Updated rules on sex-offender reporting instructions
    - Explicit allowance for virtual hearings
    - Required verification steps before declaring someone an absconder
    - Mandatory probable cause hearing for absconders prior to retaking
    - Update processes for return to sending state, violation dispositions, and documentation
    - Clarified rules for transfers of sex offenders to specialized residential programs in other states
  - Introduction of two major national initiatives:
    - Violation Response Tool, piloted in 9 States, focusing on risk, violation severity, and stability factors
    - New ICOTS database, launching later in the year, featuring Improved communication tools, a guided pre-transfer workflow, and pending-due reporting
- 

## **6.3 Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) Presentation**

### **Overview**

- MAT is used to treat opioid use disorder (OUD) only.
- Does not apply to substances such as methamphetamine.

### **Medications Available**

- Suboxone (buprenorphine)
- Vivitrol (naltrexone)
- Methadone (continuation only; cannot be initiated by NMCD)

### **Eligibility**

- Based on clinical diagnosis using DSM-5 criteria
- No requirement for:
  - Disciplinary history
  - Participation in programming (RDAP/IOP)

### **Access to Treatment**

- Available to:
  - Individuals entering custody already on MAT
  - Individuals within 90 days of release
- Future expansion will allow broader access to all eligible individuals

### **Treatment Timeline**

- Suboxone and Vivitrol may be initiated within approximately one week

### **Continuity of Care**

- Pre-release planning includes:
  - 30-day medication supply or prescription
  - Coordination with community providers

### **Privacy Considerations**

- MAT information is protected by enhanced confidentiality rules
- Disclosure depends on inmate consent
- Lack of disclosure may impact reentry planning

## **6.4 Transitional Coordinator Presentation – Housing Updates Overview**

- A presentation was provided on updated transitional housing resources across the state.

### **Key Updates**

- Expansion of housing options in multiple regions, including:
  - Albuquerque
  - Farmington
  - Las Cruces
- New and expanding providers include:
  - New Beginnings
  - Frontline Residential (expanding to Farmington)
  - Bright Side of Recovery (expanding in Las Cruces)
  - Trooper's House
  - Steps to Freedom

### **Key Points**

- Housing availability continues to grow but remains dynamic
- Providers vary in:
  - Services offered
  - Funding sources (state-funded vs. private)
  - Acceptance of MAT participants

## **MAT and Housing Considerations**

- Some housing programs:
  - Fully support MAT participation
  - Do not allow certain medications (e.g., Suboxone)
- Policies may change frequently due to:
  - Program structure
  - Funding requirements
  - Provider discretion

## **A. Reentry and Parole Planning Discussion**

### **Key Issue**

- Conflict between:
  - Approved parole plans
  - Housing programs that do not accept MAT

### **Contributing Factors**

- Inmate non-disclosure of treatment needs
- Variability in housing provider policies
- Timing of treatment initiation near release

### **Reentry Process**

- Begins approximately 6 months prior to release
- Includes multidisciplinary team participation
- Medical staff may follow up separately if disclosure does not occur

## **B. General Discussion**

### **Consensus Decision**

- The Board will:
  - Approve the parole plan
  - Allow reentry staff and Probation & Parole to resolve conflicts post-release if needed

### **Rationale**

- Prevent delays in parole approvals
- Avoid institutional backlog
- Maintain flexibility in community placement
- Recognize uncertainty in treatment decisions

## **C. Post-Release Coordination**

- Individuals may be:
  - Re-housed quickly if needed
- The Board will be notified of placement changes

### **Board Communication Needs**

- Board members requested:
    - Improved communication regarding which programs accept MAT
  - Response:
    - A static public list is not feasible due to:
      - Frequent changes
      - Safety concerns for program locations
    - Staff will work to provide more consistent updates to the Board
- 

## **7. PPD Technical Violation Information**

- Sex offender supervision violations
    - Includes things like unsupervised contact with minors or other restrictions tied to SO Supervision
  - Refusals to attend treatment, counseling, or inpatient services, especially when there is continued substance use
  - GPS tamper or removal
    - Violations involving electronic monitoring devices
  - Firearms and weapons violations
    - Even when law enforcement doesn't file a new charge
  - Victims contact violations
    - Contact with victims, co-defendants, or other restricted people
- 

## **8. Board Member Comments and Concerns**

- Concern that letters sent to the board often arrive late (after the hearing)
- Missing or Incomplete File Documents
- Missing Prior board notes, unsigned parole Certificates, and Inaccurate parole start dates in packets
- OMNI System Access and Accuracy
  - Need clarity on what information the board will be able to access in OMNI
  - Concern that OMNI progress reports don't reflect all programs inmates claim to be participating in
  - Request for OMNI training for board members

## A. Closing Remarks

- Emphasis on improving communication across:
  - Medical
  - Reentry
  - Parole Board
- Continued focus on:
  - Public safety
  - Successful reintegration
  - Continuity of care

---

## 10. Adjournment

- There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.
  - **Motion:** Motion approved by Member Pouges.
  - **Second:** Motion Second by Member Apodaca.
  - **Vote:** Approved unanimously by roll call vote!

---

Chairman  
New Mexico Adult Parole Board

---

Today's Date