Southwestern Area
Workforce Development Board

Youth and Young Adult Committee Meeting Agenda

Mesilla Community Center
2251 Calle de Santiago
Mesilla, NM 88046

To join the meeting by phone, dial (346) 248-7799, then enter Meeting ID: 882 6118 3254
To join the meeting online via Zoom, go to: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88261183254

Tuesday, November 17, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. (MDT)

Ms. Debbie Schoonover – Chair
Ms. Cassie Arias-Ward – Vice-Chair

I. Call to Order

II. Welcome

III. Roll Call and Abstentions
a. If necessary, Chair's approval for members to participate in the meeting virtually

IV. *Public Comments (3-Minute Limit)

V. Approval of Agenda

VI. Action Items
a. Approval of September 22, 2026, meeting summary ***pg. 3***
b. Meeting calendar ***pg. 6***

VII. Discussion Items
a. Youth Service Provider Reports ***pg. 9***
b. Outreach and Initiatives ***pg. 31***
c. Membership Update ***pg. 32***

VIII. Member Input

IX. Next Meeting

X. Adjournment

*Public comments can be emailed to sawdb@employnm.com before November 17, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. (MDT). All public comments will be read at the meeting in the order received.

Scan the QR code to join the meeting via Zoom

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Action Items

DRAFT OF MEETING SUMMARY

Meeting	:	**Youth and Young Adult Committee**
Date and time	:	September 22, 2026, at 2:00 p.m.
Location of Meeting	:	Mesilla Community Center 2251 Calle de Santiago Mesilla, NM 88046
Chairperson	:	Debbie Schoonover
Members Attending	:	**Present:** Cassie Arias-Ward*, Alisa Estrada*, Anton Salome*, Debbie Schoonover, Mary Ulrich, Jeff Waugh **Absent:** Tricia Brainard (without cause), Jacqueline Fryar (ex-officio), Sylvia Ulloa (with cause) **Staff:** Fayth Grijalva, Glory Juarez, Angela Longovia, Diana Luchini*, Krisye Shook* *attended virtually
Guests in Attendance	:	Dr. Sam Arungwa*, Marissa Molano*, Giselle Palomares*, Sarah Raney*, Karena Vazquez Levario*
Summary submitted by/Signature	:	Fayth Grijalva, Administrative Specialist
Next Meeting	:	November 17, 2026, at 2:00 p.m.

#	Agenda Item	Summary
1.	**Call to order**	Ms. Schoonover called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m. Ms. Schoonover approved virtual attendance for online members.
2.	**Welcome**	Ms. Schoonover welcomed the attendees.
3.	**Roll Call & Abstentions**	Ms. Grijalva called roll; there were no abstentions.
4.	**Public Comment**	No public comment
5.	**Approval of Agenda**	Ms. Ulrich motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by Ms. Estrada. Motion passed. The roll call vote was as follows: • Ms. Estrada – yes • Mr. Salome – yes • Ms. Schoonover– yes • Ms. Ulrich– yes • Mr. Waugh – yes

#	Agenda Item	Summary
6.	**Action Items**	a) Approval of August 18, 2026, meeting summary Ms. Ulrich motioned to approve the summary, seconded by Mr. Waugh. Motion passed. The roll call vote was as follows: • Ms. Estrada – yes • Mr. Salome – yes • Ms. Schoonover– yes • Ms. Ulrich– yes • Mr. Waugh – yes Cassie joined the meeting at 2:07 p.m.
7.	**Discussion Items**	a) Youth Service Provider Reports • Ms. Ulrich presented the NMSU & DACC 2026–2029 plan, program updates for September, inquiries and enrollments, partnerships and outreach, career and life skills academy, and activities in quarter one. • Members discussed housing and job market challenges. Ms. Ulrich mentioned Gregg Colburn's presentation, "Homelessness Is a Housing Problem," and said she would provide the YouTube link for staff to share. • Ms. Molano presented for Equus. She shared PY25 enrollments by program, Individual Training Accounts by sector, supportive services, a participant success story, and employed youth exiters. • Ms. Padilla reported for the Alamo Navajo Reservation in Socorro County for PY25 Q4 (April, May, and June). She addressed enrollment goals, actual expenditures, an in-school success story, an out-of-school success story, and services. b) Outreach and Initiatives • Ms. Juarez said Ms. Ulrich covered most of the outreach and initiatives in her presentation and welcomed any additional recommendations or discussion from members. c) Membership Update • Ms. Juarez provided an update on expanding Youth Committee membership, with about 11 recommendations going through the process for nominations and appointments. She recommended returning meetings to a quarterly schedule following the updated DWS guidance, and members agreed.
8.	**Member Input**	• Ms. Schoonover thanked Mr. Waugh for joining the committee and thanked members for attending.
9.	**Next Meeting**	Tuesday, November 17, 2026, at 2:00 p.m.
10.	**Adjournment**	Ms. Schoonover adjourned the meeting at 3:07 pm.

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Attested: _____ Date_____

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AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Youth and Young Adult Committee	November 17, 2026

Agenda Item
Meeting Calendar

SUMMARY OF AGENDA ITEM

This item is presented to the Youth and Young Adult Committee for review and approval of a quarterly meeting schedule through June 2027. Based on the committee's previous decision to meet quarterly, the following dates are proposed for discussion and can be changed during the meeting:

- Tuesday, January 19, 2027, at 2:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, May 18, 2027, at 2:00 p.m.

RECOMMENDATION

A motion to accept the meeting calendar.

COMMITTEE'S OPTIONS ARE TO

- Accept the recommendation
- Amend the recommendation
- Reject the recommendation
- Table the item
- Take no action on the item

DEPENDING ON ACTION TAKEN, ITEM MAY BE REFERRED OR REPORTED TO

- Staff or committee, as directed.

THIS ITEM SUPPORTS STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL(S)

- Supports all strategic plan goals

LIST OF SUPPORTING INFORMATION FOR YOUR REVIEW

- None.

2027

JANUARY

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DECEMBER

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Discussion Items

Service Providers Reports:

Youth Services
Alamo Navajo School Board

Youth Services
Doña Ana Community College

Service Provider Report:

Youth Services

Alamo Navajo School Board, Inc.

Alamo Navajo School Board, Inc.

SAWDB WIOA Youth Provider

In-School & Out-of-School Youth

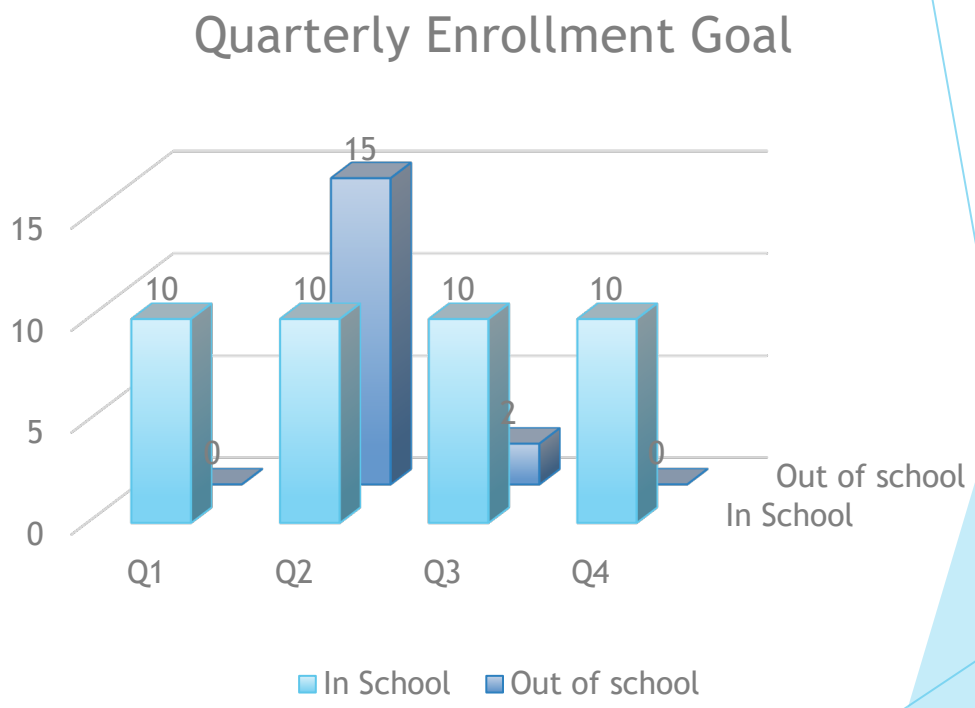
PY26 Q1 Report

(July, August, September)

America's Job Center NEW MEXICO

Enrollment Goal for PY26

- GOAL FOR PY26 YOUTH
- 10-In-School youth (25%)
- 20-Out-of-School youth (75%)
- Total-30 participants



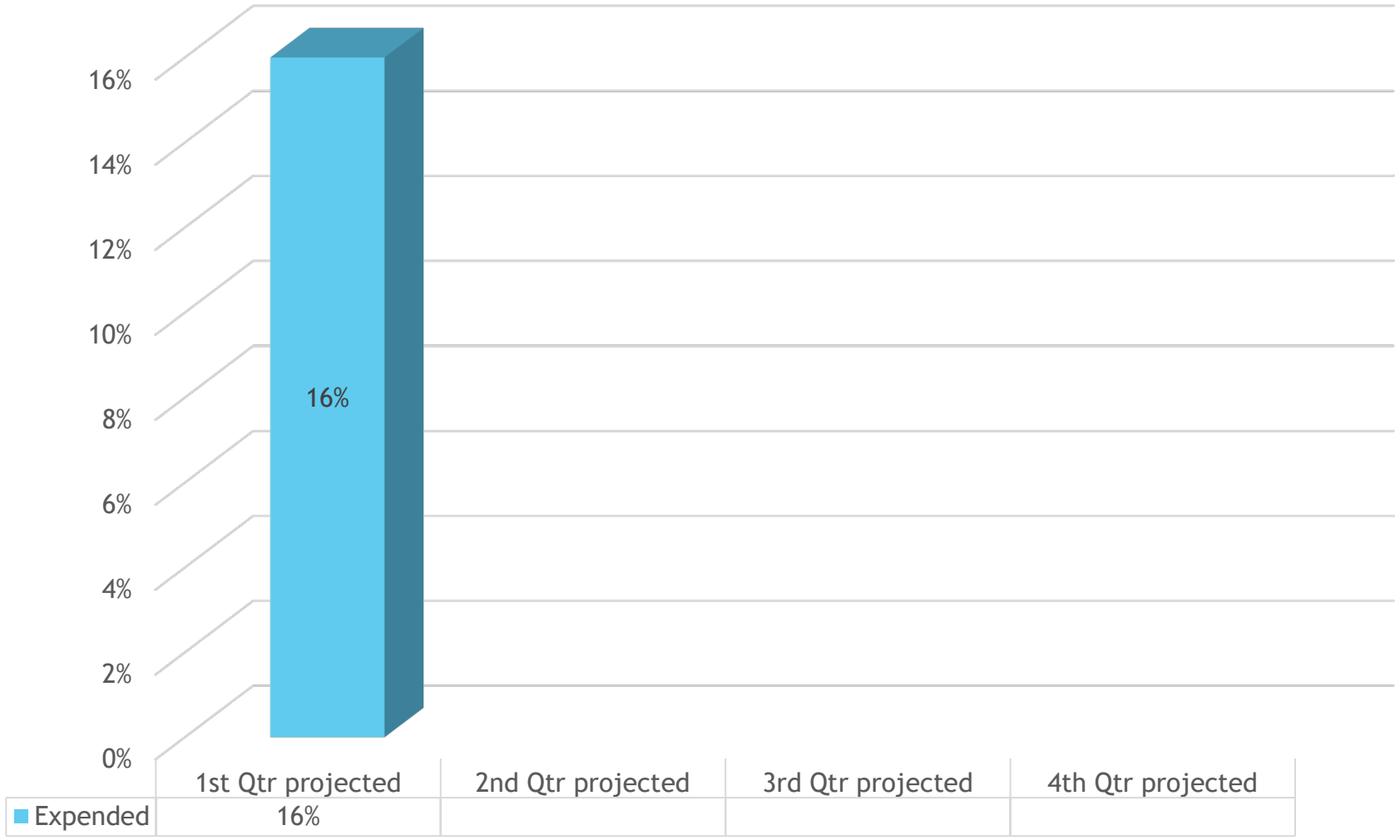
America's Job Center NEW MEXICO

Enrollment

- First Quarter (July, August, September):
- In-school enrollment: 10
- Out-of-school enrollment: 4
  - Out of School participant reached 25 percent of the enrollment goal. Recruitment is an on going for out of school youth and disinterest are targeted for enrollment upon eligibility.
  - Recruitment flyers are posted and Radio Announcements is made also participate in the community event such as Child Find and College Career Fair.

America's JobCenter NEW MEXICO

PY26 Total Budget Expenditure



America's JobCenter NEW MEXICO

Training Opportunities

- Commercial Driver's License Class A (Theory and Behind the Wheel)
- Commercial Driver's License Class B – School Bus Driver (Department of Motor Vehicle – Permit)
- Onsite Digital Literacy
- Onsite Online Classroom Training - Essential Education
- GED –Online learning with SIPI (Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute)ABE program
- On-line or Face-to-Face First-Aid CPR Training
- Online Food Handler's Training (Indian Health Services, an agency with Department of Health & Human Services serving American Indians and Alaska Natives
- Forestry Program: Firefighting Training, Forest Workers Safety Certification
- Health Field – Pharmacy Tech, Dental Tech, Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA)
- CNA Training through NM Health Registry, Alamo approved training site, Alamo Clinic Nurse, Instructor

America's JobCenter NEW MEXICO

Performance goal - to meet the 14 elements

- Paid and unpaid Tutoring, study skills training – drop-out prevention leading to attainment of high school diploma, digital literacy
- Alternative secondary school – two individuals working on their GED with SIPI
- Paid/Unpaid Work Experience (summer employment, job shadow)
- Occupational Skills Training (work-based learning , First Aid/CPR American Heart, online food handlers, etc.)
- Employability Skills Training – Workforce Preparation Activities - Career Awareness – Life Skills
- Leadership Development Opportunities (exposure to post-secondary, peer mentoring/tutoring,
- Adult Mentoring (provide youth with guidance, support and encouragement on the job, etc.
- Follow-up (regular contact with participants)
- Comprehensive Guidance and Counseling – Career Pathways to help youth transition to post-secondary education and/or training
- Financial Literacy Education (creating personal budgets, setting up checking/savings accounts,)

Alamo Navajo School Board, Inc.
Division of Community Service
P.O. Box 5907
Alamo, New Mexico 87825
(575) 854-2609 ext. 1400

- Marlene Thomas-Herrera: marleneh@ansbi.org
- Sherri Bennett: sbennett@ansbi.org
- Sylvia Monte: smonte@ansbi.org
- Juanisha Padilla: jpadilla@ansbi.org

THANK YOU SEVEN COUNTY REGION AND SAWDB!!

America's JobCenter NEW MEXICO

Service Provider Report:

Youth Services

Doña Ana Community College

youthlink
SOUTHWESTERN NM

WIOA Youth and Young Adult Program
Youth Committee Meeting Report
11-17-2026

America's JobCenter NEW MEXICO

WORKFORCE & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT NM STATE DACC

Quarter 1 & Quarter 2 Updates

- Hiring and Onboarding Staff (6 positions)
  - Program Manager – Amy Myers
  - 5 Youth Career Navigators – Jay Watson, Paulo Ramirez, Joell Austin, Cheryl Cush, Monica Devora
  - Training includes the NAWDP Youth Symposium, San Antonio, Nov 15-18
- Recruiting and Co-Enrolling Participants
  - Over 28 referrals and 79 inquiries since July
  - Ave Age 20
  - Community Mapping of Youth Program Services
- Subcontract with the Bridge of Southern New Mexico
- Program Development
- Stakeholders and Partnerships

Amy Myers, MPH

Hi, I'm Amy Myers, the YouthLink Program Manager at Doña Ana Community College (DACC). I joined DACC in 2021, and my work has centered on one goal: helping more students from undervalued populations get into education and succeed in it. In my previous role, I started a program that helped more than 500 students continue and complete their education. I hold both a bachelor's and a master's degree in Public Health from NMSU, and I'm currently working on a doctorate in higher education leadership and administration. I'm originally from Texas, and I'm a proud mom who is happiest outdoors.

Paulo Ramirez



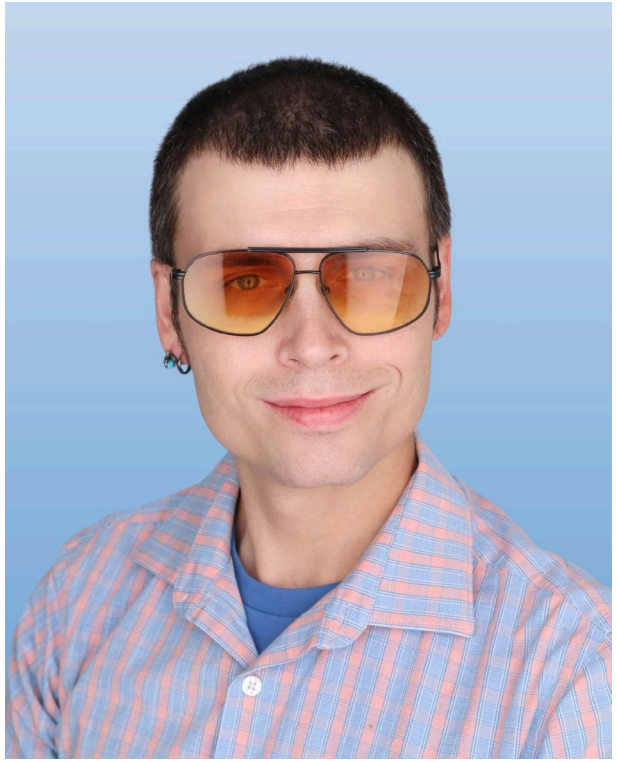
Hello! My name is Pablo. I am a graduate from NMSU, with my bachelor's in finance with a concentration as a Financial Analyst. I am currently a masters student in Educational Leadership & Administration at NMSU. Being a first-generation student, I had to navigate this college journey by myself and know that it can be a scary process. I am fortunate to have learned valuable lessons as well as add experience to my own "college toolbox." I hope to share what I've learned with other students who may be in the same situation I was in and know you are not alone. Go Aggies!

Joell Austin

Joell Austin brings over 26 years of professional experience in human resources, training, employee relations, and community-based services. Her career includes roles with New Mexico State University, Wyoming Independent Living, and Cheyenne Regional Medical Center. She has extensive experience in employee development, coaching, conflict resolution, and helping individuals with disabilities achieve personal and professional goals. Joell is a graduate of Chadron State College in Nebraska, where she received her BA in English and Speech Communication. She is excited to bring her experience, strong communication skills, and passion for helping others to her new role as a Youth Career Navigator.



Jay Watson



Hello! My name is Jay Watson. I grew up in Missouri, till moving to Colorado just shy of my 16th birthday, where I finished high school and earned my undergraduate degree in 2017 at the University of Colorado, Denver. Shortly after, I settled in Doña Ana County with my college sweetheart, and together we've built a life raising our three babies. I've worked in education since 2010, focusing on making all to find their meaning regardless of cultural, mental or physical differences; showing there are no deficients, rather 'unknown potentials' instead. I enjoy baseball, birding, and books, with copious cuppas throughout all my days. I am excited to be a part of the growth that will come next with DWS and the potential of helping Dona Ana County grow from today's efforts into tomorrow's needs, while honoring yesterday's foundations.

Cheryl Cush



Cheryl Cush began her professional journey as an animator in Chicago, where, after seven years, she stepped up to create and manage an internship program focusing on bringing diverse experiences to the video game industry. During a hiatus in 2022 traveling across the country, she fell in love with New Mexico, ultimately deciding to relocate here. Now based in San Antonio, New Mexico, she is building her desert dream home with her husband. She enjoys reading, creating art and hearing everyone's stories. Cheryl is thrilled to join the local community and apply her extensive experience in guiding young talent to her new role as a Youth Career Navigator.

Monica Devora



Monica Devora is a Youth Career Navigator with a background in counseling, education, and workforce development. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Counseling and Community Psychology and an Associate's degree in Early Childhood Education. Her experience includes working with youth workforce programs in Texas, where she helped young adults access career exploration, education, training, and employment opportunities. She has also supported student success through several years of tutoring and academic assistance at Doña Ana Community College. Monica is passionate about helping youth identify their strengths, overcome challenges, and achieve their goals. She is committed to creating supportive environments that encourage personal growth, confidence, and long-term success. Her work focuses on empowering young people to build meaningful pathways toward education and careers.

Partner Spotlight

Las Cruces Public Schools Student Attendance & Engagement office

- 4 social workers, 1 administrator, 1 transition coach
- Work with middle school and high school students on long-term suspension, long-term absences from mental and behavioral health and justice-involved youth
- Help them transition back to their home school or develop modified credit recovery plan
- Many students do not complete their high school diploma or need additional assistance

Partner Spotlight

El Córazon de Columbus

- Outreach to Columbus community
- GED/ESL and YouthLink opportunities
- Partnership with DACC Adult Education

Program Development - Career & Life Skills Academy

Short Courses

- Personal Discovery
- Financial Literacy
- Community Engagement
- Entrepreneurial Training

Workshops

- Life Skills
- Career Navigation
- Digital Skills
- Work Readiness Skills

Questions/Comments

Contact Information:

Mary Ulrich, 575-527-7526, mulrich@dacc.nmsu.edu

General Inquiries and Referrals, 575-527-7776, ctp@nmsu.edu

Interest Form:

Information Request – Fill out form



Outreach and Initiatives

Membership Update

Member Input

Next Meeting

See approved meeting dates

Meeting Adjourned

Thank You for Attending

Have a great day!