

# CENTRAL REGION EDUCATIONAL COOPERATIVE



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Executive Director  
**Maria L. Jaramillo**

## **CREC Coordinating Council**

**April 14, 2022**

**11:00 am**

### **Voting Members Present**

Mr. Jeremy Abshire (Chair)  
Mr. Ben Santistevan  
Ms. Dawn Apodaca (Vice Chair)  
Dr. Glenn Haven  
Mr. David Lackey

### **Representing**

UNMH, CPC – Mimbres Schools  
CYFD, Juvenile Justice Services  
Mountainair Public Schools  
Magdalena Municipal Schools  
Quemado Independent Schools

### **Non-Voting Members Present**

Ms. Maria Jaramillo  
Ms. Florence Garcia  
Ms. Jessica Orona  
Vicky Fuessel  
Mandy Thrasher

### **Representing**

CREC, Executive Director  
CREC, Administrative Assistant  
CREC, Business Manager  
Program & Related Services Coordinator/Supervisor  
Program & Related Services Coordinator/Supervisor

### **Voting Members Not Present**

Ms. Morgen Jaco  
Dr. Susan Passell  
Mr. Lyndsey Padilla  
Ms. Carmela Sandoval  
Dr. Cindy Sims

### **Representing**

NMCD Education  
Jemez Valley Public Schools  
Vaughn Municipal Schools  
DOH, Sequoyah Adolescent Treatment Center  
Estancia Municipal Schools

Quemado Independent Schools, Vaughn Municipal Schools, Sequoyah Adolescent Treatment Center, Children's Psychiatric Center,  
Juvenile Justice Services, New Mexico Corrections Department, Laguna DOE



**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The council was called to order by Mr. Jeremy Abshire at 11:16 AM.

**II. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM**

A determination of quorum was made by Mr. Jeremy Abshire at 11:16 AM.

**III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

At 11:16 am, Mr. Jeremy Abshire entertained a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. David Lackey made the motion and Mr. Ben Santistevan gave the second. The Council unanimously approved the agenda.

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

At 11:17 am, Mr. Jeremy Abshire entertained a motion to approve the previous Council Meeting Minutes (1-13-22). Ms. Dawn Apodaca made the motion and a second was made by Mr. David Lackey. The Council unanimously approved the minutes.

**V. Director's Report**

**A. CREC Updates**

Ms. Jaramillo noted that the CREC Council is invited to the STOPit event on May 3rd from 4:30 to 7:30 for traditional school districts to come and have a conversation and dinner on Creating Safer Places to Learn. Held at Marriott Albuquerque on Louisiana – overnight accommodations provided. [EVENT@STOPITSOLUTIONS.COM](mailto:EVENT@STOPITSOLUTIONS.COM) for details; Ms. Jaramillo will forward information to all Council members.

Ms. Jaramillo discussed the Beyond Textbooks possible collaboration – 4 districts (QU, MA, VA and JV). Ms. Jaramillo provided a monthly instructional days and end of quarters comparison to see if it were possible to create common PLCs by grade level (once a month or quarter) as well as shared professional learning opportunities. Mr. Lackey and Dr. Haven stated they would be willing to schedule common PLC dates (quarterly or by semester) with the possibility of having the 4 district grade level teams meet, facilitated by BT staff with a structured agenda, purpose, and goals. We will have further discussion at our next CREC Superintendents Networking meeting.

Cook Center for Human Connection – Mountainair has purchased a 3 year subscription; provides wrap around supports for community and families while maintaining anonymity. More information about Cook Center will be forthcoming.

Teacher Residency Applications were discussed. Mountainair and Quemado have been having conversations with teacher prep institutions regarding possible placements.

PED IGAs forthcoming for SY22-23: Digital Learning Support – statewide \$10m; ECLIPSE Pilot – APS schools (Practice Based Coaching model)

Lastly, she discussed scheduling an upcoming Regional Superintendent Networking Meeting possibly as soon as May and she will be scheduling to attend member school board meetings this spring/summer.

## **VI. Program Coordinators Report**

### **A. State Directed Administrative Activities (SDAA)**

Ms. Mandy Thrasher and Vicky Fuessel presented updates for their program including finishing observations for all CREC related services providers, staffing for FY22-22, furthering professional development, transitioning to a new CPI trainer, and providing training for new special education director in Magdalena.

Ms. Thrasher provided information on the observations for related service providers mentioning it “offered feedback and supervisory guidance to support student progress towards IEP goals”. Furthermore, she mentioned some challenges with staffing for FY22-23, but EASi (one of the contracting agencies) is shutting down, so Ms. Thrasher and Ms. Fuessel are hoping to recruit from them and are currently processing applications for all related service areas. They have offered two letters of intent to hire.

Ms. Thrasher and Ms. Fuessel provided trainings for professional development and communication strategies in Jemez Valley for all staff on 3/18/2022. They mentioned this was very helpful to staff and may hold short monthly trainings for district staff. This will allow open sessions for any questions to be addressed. Ms. Thrasher and Ms. Fuessel trained new CPI on 4/8/2022 and will be scheduling a possible training in Magdalena for new special education director.

### **B. Early Childhood Instructional Coaches (ECICS)**

Ms. Maria Jaramillo reported on the ECICS (Early Childhood Instructional Coaches) department explaining the department is currently staffed with 21 ECICS and 2 coach coordinators. Ms. Jaramillo is working with the ECECD regarding next year’s changes. This would include PreK community-based programs and school-based programs operating under the same criteria.

### **C. Other Programs (Recovery and Stabilization/ SEL, etc.)**

Ms. Maria Jaramillo reported this section will include Safe & Healthy Schools, Social Emotional Learning (SEL), Commission for the Blind (CFB), and Universal Design for Learning (UDL). Ms. Jaramillo mentioned CREC assisted PED with a spring summit for Safe & Healthy Schools which was a success. This was a virtual conference in which Ms. Laura Gilge and Ms. Sandra Coleman hosted. The CREC provided zoom event platform set up, personal assistants, Zoom event technical support and training, etc.

Ms. Jaramillo presented the SEL (social emotional learning) program. The CREC has been contracted to assist PED Safe & Healthy Schools with SEL initiatives. Ms. Lucretia Foster and Ms. Laura Gilge oversee this program and have collaborated with PED to introduce SEL for level one teachers. Ms. Jaramillo mentioned the CFB program which has had much success. This program is led by Ms. Foster and Ms. Gabriela Ronquillo. Ms. Foster and Ms. Ronquillo strive to help students set realistic goals. This program has 44 students on the 21-22 caseload, approximately 38 will participate in in the summer STEP program, and 61 one-on-one, pre-ETS sessions were delivered to students with visual impairments in persona and virtually.

Lastly, Ms. Jaramillo reported on NM UDL. She mentioned the program is almost up and running with our member schools such as UNMH Mimbres, Jemez Valley, Sequoyah Adolescent Treatment Center, JJS and many more committed to the project – 110 . The program will help create motivated, expert learners who can assess their own learning needs and monitor their own progress. This will give all students equal opportunities by providing a variety of teaching methods.

## **VII. Financial Report**

### **a. Monthly Reports (emailed each month)**

Ms. Jessica Orona emailed out Council Reports for February on 3/18/2022.

Ms. Orona reported March reports are not out yet due to CREC changing banks. Ms. Orona reported a total revenue collected in February was \$1,027,156.22 and expenditures were \$528,873.39 which had a 40% decrease since January due to the ECECD MiniGrant having over \$200K in expenditures. February's cash balance was 1,413,206.22 which had a 20% decrease from January. The cash balance decreased due to CREC having over \$948K in outstanding AR that had been sent out.

Accounts receivable has a current outstanding A/R of \$984,534.38 which is an 801% increase from January. Ms. Orona explained the increase is due to outstanding IGA billing. A \$429K invoice was generated to collect on the CREC

ECECD PreK IGA. Also, the CREC office caught up on ancillary and IGA billing that was not sent out in January.

Ms. Orona updated the Council regarding the fiber RFP that was conducted in March and stated that the RFP was awarded to WNM who is the vendor that currently provides these services to the West Central Consortium. Ms. Orona also mentioned that the E-Rate discount had dropped back down to 86% from 90% as Reserve Schools was no longer participating in CEP.

Ms. Orona reported out that the CREC has signed MOUs for three outside schools in which we will be billing Medicaid on their behalf starting in the next school year.

Ms. Orona mentioned in January that the FY20-21 Medicaid Cost Settlement payment was coming, and it was confirmed that the funds were received on April 5<sup>th</sup> in the amount of \$366,606.72. Ms. Orona stated, Medicaid disbursements will be sent out to the districts next month.

Lastly, Ms. Orona received final allocation letters from the PED regarding IDEA B; however, she needed to contact Susan Lucero at PED Fiscal as each of the four state supported entities did not reflect an amount in final allocation, but REC was showing \$11K in total.

#### **Executive Session – Director’s Evaluation**

Closed executive session to discuss Director’s Evaluation.

#### **VIII. Current Business**

##### **a. 7% salary Increase for all CREC employees SY22-23 (salary schedules)**

Ms. Orona presented a recommendation to the Council of a 7% raise for all CREC employees. Ms. Orona mentioned \$1.6 Million will be needed in revenue to cover the staff. She presented cash carry over from ECECD MiniGrants and indirect from potential contracts for next year to cover the additional revenue needed. Potential contracts for next year include PED Digital Learning Coaching, PED Pilot in APS Practice Based Coaching, and a PED SEL Train the Trainer contract. Ms. Orona proposed an increase in the FTE ancillary rate. The current rate is \$100,000.00 and the new rate proposed is \$110,000.00. Ms. Orona noted there is a total of 21.99 FTE for all ancillary staff; however, the CREC FTE rate calculation is based off 17.21 FTE that is charged directly to the districts and not covered by other funding sources. Mr. Jeremy Abshire entertained a motion to approve 7% salary increase. Dr. Glenn Haven made the motion and Mr. David Lackey gave the second. Motion passed.

**b. Related Services Cost – Proposed \$110,000.00**

Ms. Vicky Fuessel and Ms. Mandy Thrasher presented to the Council a proposal per 1.0 FTE would be raised to not exceed \$110,000.00. Ms. Fuessel and Ms. Thrasher introduced a new salary schedule for a COTA (Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant), a SLPA (Speech Language Pathology Assistant), and a ASL (Apprentice in speech and Language). These are new positions to the CREC to help related services providers with everyday tasks. Ms. Orona mentioned she will do an analysis for next year to see if the \$110,000.00 proposal can be decreased. Mr. Jeremy Abshire Mr. Jeremy Abshire entertained a motion to approve Related Services Cost at \$110,000. Mr. David Lackey made the motion and Ms. Dawn Apodaca gave the second. Motion passed.

**c. Warrants and Vouchers**

Ms. Jessica Orona reported that from 2/01/22 thru 2/28/2, CREC had \$560,126.73 in checks and distributions including payroll expenses and accounts payable. Mr. Jeremy Abshire entertained for a motion to approve the warrants and vouchers. Mr. Ben Santistevan made the motion and Dr. Glenn Haven seconded. Motion passed.

**d. BARS (including those approved by email)**

Ms. Orona explained CREC has until May 15th to get BARS submitted so the Council tabled the BARS until next Council meeting. Upcoming Bars will be sent VIA email.

**IX. Agenda Items**

Ms. Maria Jaramillo presented hosting regional superintendent meetings. This would allow for networking with other superintendents regarding programs and PED communications. The Council debated between holding this next month after our Council meeting or to wait until the Fall. Our next Council meeting in May will be to approve CREC budgets, SSEPs federal applications and special education procedures.

**X. Adjournment**

Mr. Jeremy Abshire entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. David Lackey made the motion and Dr. Glenn Haven gave the second; motion passed, and meeting was adjourned at 2:35 PM.

**APPROVED BY:**

  
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**Maria Jaramillo**  
Executive Director

  
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**Jeremy Abshire**  
Council Chairman