



City of Albuquerque

Office of the Equity and Inclusion

Commission on American Indian and Alaska Native Affairs (CAIANA)

General Meeting

Date/Time: Wednesday, September 9th 2026, starting at 5:30pm (MST)

Location: Los Duranes Community Center/Zoom Webinar

Commissioners Present:

- Commissioner / Chair Kimberly Gleason
- Commissioner Thelma Antonio
- Commissioner Nora J. Morris
- Commissioner Krista Chico

Members of the Public:

- Guest Presenter - Rebecca Owl Morgan

Members Not Present:

- Commissioner Pauline Joe
- Commissioner Chas Tso

(CABO) City Staff Present:

- Liaison of Office of Native American Affairs - Brandi Ahmie

Minutes

I. CALL TO ORDER:

- a. The Commission of American Indian and Alaska Native Affairs of June 11, 2025 was called to order by Chair Kimberly Gleason at time 5:30pm. Location is the Los Duranes Community Center and Zoom Webinar.

II. ROLL CALL:

- a. Roll Call conducted by Commissioner/Chair Gleason at 6:09pm. Established Quorum was done by Commissioner Morris at 6:11pm.

III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF GENERAL MEETING AGENDA FOR SEPTEMBER 9, 2026

- a. Motion of approval for the agenda was made by Commissioner Morris for the General Meeting on September 9, 2026. Seconded by Commissioner Antonio. Voted unanimous Yes in person and on Zoom Webinar. Agenda was approved.

IV. REVIEW AND APPROVAL PREVIOUS GENERAL MEETING MINUTES JUNE 10, 2026

- a. Review and Approval of June 13, 2026 Meeting Minutes. Motion for approval of June meeting minutes by Commissioner Morris. Motion Seconded by Commissioner Antonio. Voted unanimous Yes on Zoom Webinar by all Commissioners to accept meeting minutes.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

- a. No public comments.

VI. AGENDA ITEMS

- a. Guest Presenter: Rebecca Owl Morgan, MLS. – Center for Native American Health: *Alzheimer's and Dementia for American Indians.*
 - i. Why is it a problem? Especially for Native People?: Native people experience Alzheimer's disease and related dementia at approximately three times the rate of the general population.
 - 1. Lack of culturally relevant assessments can contribute to misdiagnoses and may discourage people from seeking help.
 - ii. Main Project Objective: to develop a scientifically valid and culturally appropriate/safe cognitive assessment toolkit for Indigenous communities.
 - 1. The toolkit aims to improve brain health, early detection, and awareness.
 - iii. American Indigenous Cognitive Assessment (AMICA) Sites: Red Lake Minnesota (MN), Oneida Nation Wisconsin (WI), First Nations Community HealthSource in Albuquerque and the University of New Mexico.
 - 1. Indigenous Knowledge Advisory Group - Goals for the IKAG are to review and adapt assessment questions to ensure they are culturally safe, scientifically valid, and appropriate for Indigenous older adults.
 - 2. Assessment Expert Panel (AEP): provides clarification and ensures adapted questions assess the intended areas of the brain.
 - 3. Final Step will be to draft and test the toolkit with volunteers showing signs of Alzheimer's and dementia to identify needed improvements.
 - iv. The project is seeking participants for the Pilot test and later on for the Validity testing phases.
 - v. QUESTIONS FROM COMMISSIONERS:

1. Commissioner Gleason asked whether the project had approached any of the 19 Pueblo Governors about assisting with development of the questionnaire.
 - a. Response: Guest Presenter, Rebecca Owl Morgan explained that the project began after eligibility criteria had been established, which currently focuses on urban Native people living in Albuquerque. A Pueblo Governor expressed interest in assisting during a Laguna meeting. The presenter stated that expanding the project to include all Pueblos and tribes in New Mexico could provide a broader response to the issue.
2. Commissioner Morris asked about plans following the study, the impact of substance use on cognition, and how older Native adults who may need language assistance would be engaged.
 - a. Response: Guest Presenter, Rebecca Owl Morgan explained that the goals and plans are to validate the toolkit and make it available to healthcare personnel, who would then process it to the community. She acknowledges that alcohol and drug use can affect cognition but may be difficult to distinguish from other forms of impairment. Questions will be written in clear, accessible language for the older Native adults.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

- a. 2025 Annual Report was tabled during May's meeting. A review was needed.
 - i. Brandi Ahmie, CABQ Office of Native American Affairs Liaison presented the updated layout and changes to the report, including commissioner membership and attendance.
 1. Commission Activities (2025 Ongoing Framework):
 - a. Integrated Development Ordinance (IDO) Updates: This section needs to be revised to clarify that the Commission did not move the IDO updates forward. The work was completed by Terry Sloan, CABQ Intergovernmental Tribal Liaison, at the request of Tribal Leadership. Change to IDO, response time from Tribes updated from 15 days to 30 days with City Council approval. Occurred in 2026, not 2025.
 2. Urban Indigenous Resource Center:
 - a. The Commission discussed clarifying the report's description of funding for the Urban Indigenous Resource Center.
 - i. The funding is State funding held by the City as a disbursement and is not City funding.
 - ii. Development of an Indigenous Resource Center - related funding was requested through a Junior Bill by Americans for Indian Opportunity (AIO).
 - iii. The funding remains unused and must be applied toward renovation of City property, development of a new facility, or a feasibility study/research.

- iv. AIO requested the funding and currently has responsibility for the project.
 - v. The Commission previously supported a letter to the Mayor regarding AIO's plans to establish a center.
 - vi. Solution: Commissioner discussed either removing this section from the report or revising it to clearly describe the Commission's role as providing support rather than managing the project.
3. Funding Recommendations for Re-Emerging MMIR Task Force Operations:
- a. The Commission discussed rewording this section to recommend that the City establish support for families and clarify what that support would include.
 - b. Marijuana Funding: Past Commissioner Kyle Tapaha suggested establishing a printing fund to help families print flyers. The possibility of OEI establishing this fund is still being explored.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Updates concerning Terms:
 - i. Commissioner Gleason's term ends September 30, 2026. She will no longer serve as Chair or Commissioner beginning October 1st, 2026, unless otherwise extended through the appropriate process.
 - ii. The Commission discussed electing a new Chair in October. Commissioner Joe's term was renewed for an additional three years.
- b. Attendance and Tardiness Issues:
 - i. Commissioners were reminded of the importance of attending meetings and notifying the Commission at least 24 hours in advance when unable to attend.
 - 1. Concerns were raised regarding Commissioner Joe's attendance.
 - ii. Brandi Ahmie, CABQ Office of Native American Affairs Liaison explained that Chair Gleason may continue attending meetings until a new Chair is elected but is not required to do so. She may also submit a formal letter ending her term.
 - iii. Chair Gleason stated she would continue attending for approximately one to two months to assist with the transition and ensure new Commissioners understand voting procedures and membership requirements.
- c. Chairperson:
 - i. **Motion**: Chair Gleason motioned to vote on a new Chairperson beginning in October 2026. Commissioner Chico seconded. Motion was passed unanimously with Commissioners Antonio, Morris, Chico, and Gleason voting yes.
- d. Secretary:
 - i. Chair Gleason raised concerns regarding the Secretary position and the need for consistent support with agendas and meeting minutes.

- ii. Brandi Ahmie, CABQ Office of Native American Affairs Liaison explained that a Commissioner who misses three consecutive meetings without notice or the required 24-hour notification may be subject to removal by Commission vote.
 - 1. Also stated that has not received communications from Commissioner Joe despite several emails and text messages over the past few months.
- iii. **Motion**: Chair Gleason motioned to vote on a new Secretary in October. Commissioner Morris seconded. Motion passed with Commissioners Antonio, Chico, and Gleason voting Yes.
- iv. Commissioner Morris asked about Commissioner Joe's term and the process for addressing three consecutive absences. Chair Gleason emphasized the importance of accountability and consistent attendance and stated that stricter attendance procedures may be needed.

IX. COMMISSION ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS - (CABQ) CITY SECTOR REPORTS

- a. Brandi Ahmie, CABQ Office of Native American Affairs Liaison
 - i. **Attendance and Quorum**
 - 1. Check-in Google form is a guide for her to adjust meetings and schedules that can help everyone be in attendance.
 - a. Better way to make sure there is Quorum.
 - b. Shows what the format looks like, how to fill it out and how it will benefit everyone who needs the documentation.
 - ii. **Updates on staffing the commission**
 - 1. These Four People are hopefully starting in October, would be Commissioners that are eligible to vote and help move projects forward.
 - a. Clarice Honahnie (Environmental) - Hopeworks Tribal Liaison: appointment is being confirmed today, September 9, 2026, at City Council. Believes she will be receiving her appointment letter and final packet, hopefully next week, she will be attending meetings in October.
 - b. Kinsey Ricketts: A strong background in Health.
 - c. Jodi Brushia: Set currently in Education.
 - d. Esquibal: Currently undecided on where he will be placed. Maybe at Large or Governmental. Will talk with him more further to see what he is comfortable with.
 - 2. All of them have been approved by staff (etc. Terry Sloan, Brandi Ahmie, and the Clerks). Now in the process of getting the Mayor's approval and after will be placed on the City Council agenda.

iii. September Events:

1. Advocacy Con. When: September 11-13th, 2026. Would have to pay to attend. A Missing Persons event. Will have a MMIW families present to present and speak on their experience
2. Southwest Indigenous Housing Justice Collaborative. When: September 21st, 2026. Virtual Zoom: 10:00am - 12:00pm. Information on things happening around housing and provides presenters to speak on such topics.
3. The Department of Justice is hosting a MMIW Subcommittee listening session. When: September, 25th, 2026. Time: 4:00pm - 8:00pm. Location: WESST Center in Albuquerque.

X. COMMISSION SECTOR REPORTS AND UPDATES

- a. Had no time to discuss.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

- a. There being no further business before the Commission on American Indian and Alaska Native Affairs Board, Chair Gleason moved to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:41pm. Next General Meeting: Wednesday, October 14th, 2026 at 5:30pm.

XII. UPCOMING EVENTS

- a. **Red Ribbon Project/Run.** When: September 11th, 2026. Location: Tohajilee.
- b. **Advocacy Con.** When: September 11-13th, 2026. Would have to pay to attend. A Missing Persons event. Will have a MMIW families present to present and speak on their experience
- c. **Laguna Feast.** When: September 19th, 2026.
- d. **Southwest Indigenous Housing Justice Collaborative.** When: September 21st, 2026. Virtual Zoom: 10:00am - 12:00pm. Information on things happening around housing and provides presenters to speak on such topics.
- e. **Paughte Feast.** When: September 25th, 2026.
- f. **The Department of Justice is hosting a MMIW Subcommittee listening session.** When: September, 25th, 2026. Time: 4:00pm - 8:00pm. Location: West Enterprise Center in Albuquerque.
- g. **Clyde Warrior Event.** When: October 16th, 2026. Hosted by the Native Professional Advancement Center.