DOÑA ANA COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE CONTINUUM BOARD
April 14, 2021

Following are the summary minutes from the Doña Ana County Juvenile Justice Continuum Board meeting held on Wednesday, April 14, 2021 at 12:00 p.m., via Zoom Webinar.

MEMBERS PRESENT:  
Honorable Samantha Madrid, Chair (DAC Division I)  
Lt. Joy Wiitala (Vice-Chair Proxy LCPD)  
Brian Kavanaugh (Families & Youth, Inc.)  
Tessa Abeyta-Stuve (Proxy, CLC Mayor’s Office)  
Sylvia Herrera (Drug Court 3rd Judicial District Court)  
Cynthia Ohrazda (CYFD – JJS)  
Robert Nuñez, (City of Las Cruces)  
Rory Rank (Retiree)  
Chief Vanessa Ordoñez (Anthony NM Police)  
Marianne Hernandez (CYFD – PS)  
Elijah Myers (Student)

ABSENT:  
Shannon Reynolds (DAC Board of Commissioners)  
Lt. Genny Olivas (DAC Detention Center)  
Lindsay McDonnel-Benatar (Public Defenders Depart)  
Dr. Roberto Lozano (Las Cruces Public Schools)  
Jeanne Resendez (Mesilla Valley Hospital)  
Bill Rothengass (Retiree)  
Mike Tapia (Criminal Justice Professor)  
Captain Ernesto Parra (DAC Sheriff)

OTHERS PRESENT:  
Tommi Fisher (Proxy, CYFD-PS)  
Julie Molina (JARC)  
Aralis Chacon (FYI)  
Steve Nance

STAFF PRESENT:  
Grace Telles (Coordinator)  
Martha Moreno (Recording Secretary)  
Lisa Garza (CLC / Juvenile Citation Program)  
Sonya Delgado (CLC / Parks & Recreation Director)

1. CALL TO ORDER
The meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m. by Ms. Madrid and recognized the meeting as having a legal quorum.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS
Board members, staff and guest introduced themselves.

4. CONFLICT OF INTEREST
No conflict of interest

5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. Abeyta-Stuve moved to approve agenda as presented, seconded by Ms. Ohrazda. Motion carried unanimously.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

6.1. Doña Ana County Juvenile Justice Continuum Board Meeting Minutes for December 09, 2020

Mr. Rank moved to approve minutes for 12/09/20 as presented, seconded by Ms. Abeyta-Stuve. Motion carried unanimously.

7. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Rank said that New Mexico now has legalized adult recreational use of cannabis. Board needs to be aware of the impact it will be to our youth, not only Doña Ana but also the state. I have done research and Marijuana is more addicting than Alcohol.

Ms. Madrid said do not know how we can address something like these.

Mr. Nuñez said we will need to meet and discuss how we can address and implement into our programs.

Ms. Abeyta-Stuve said that with recent changes the council will be having a special work session to discuss these changes, zoning, consideration, education, enforcement, etc. Mr. Nuñez that these areas are also be included in those conversation for the work session will very helpful, and I can help facilitate to make sure we are taken into consideration our juveniles.

Mr. Myers said he applied to the United States Naval Academy and got accepted and will be going late June or early July. I think JJAC should be looking for replacement once I go. We have had conversations on this before, but I think we should start reaching out to kids.

Ms. Madrid and board members said Congratulations and what an honor.

Ms. Madrid asked Robert and Grace how we go about recruiting youth as board members.

Mr. Nuñez said that they will meet with Elijah and he may have some fellow peers he would be able to recommend. We will also reach out to other agencies / organizations that work closely with youth in identifying individuals to bring onto the board.

Mr. Kavanaugh said, I would also suggest advertising for the position (Youth Board Member) through; Youth Serving Organizations, City Departments, Parks & Recreation, JCP, etc. that might attract youth already engaged in a board / committee such as this. There is some benefit usually with expedite getting people
we know but there is some value in reaching out to the broader community and attracting people at a broader scale.

Mr. Nuñez said that is an excellent idea and would also like to invite the south part of Doña Ana. There is not a limit, the age range is 16 – 24.

Chief Ordoñez said she agrees with Mr. Nuñez, we should try to explore on advertising across the southern part of the county. There are a lot of youth in our community who I think would love to be a part of this. Do not forget about us down south.

Mr. Nuñez said with zoom capabilities it would allow participation from youth throughout Doña Ana County.

Ms. Abeyta-Stuve said that is a great idea to allow zoom capabilities for future participants. I think it is a lot more inclusive and be able to reach a broader network. Once that posting is made up, would we have access to that so we can share with our networks as well, to capture potential applicants?

Mr. Nuñez said with various formats of social media (twitter, Instagram, Facebook, etc.) and school we will be able to reach out to youth.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1. Nomination of Community Board Member – Steve Nance (Action)

Mr. Nance said I want to thank everybody for this opportunity it is exciting. I came to New Mexico; I am originally from east Tennessee. I was a Baltimore City Police Officer for 12 years (patrol, sex crimes, Sgt., homicide). Worked in Corrections for 25 years. I was a Prison Warden in a couple of prisons and retired from Southern NM Prison. I taught at NMSU 3 years (Criminal Justice) and currently teaching at DACCC (Criminal Justice).

Mr. Rank said that Mr. Nance also worked with LCPS / Community Schools (Lynn Middle School) and taught Street Law, part of the mentoring program that we had at NMSU.

Mr. Rank moved to approve Steve Nance as a Doña Ana County Juvenile Justice Continuum Board member, seconded by Mr. Nuñez. Motion carried unanimously.

8.2. JCP Budget Adjustment Request (Action)

Ms. Telles shared the breakdown of Budget Adjustment Request of $4,200 on the screen for board members to view. We want to make sure there is money in the budget where we needed it to be.

- Decrease: $3,200 from JCP II and $1,000 from JCP II Follow-Up
- Increase: $1,200 to JCP I, $1,000 to JCP III and $2,000 to JCP III Follow-Up

Mr. Rank moved to approve Adjustment to Budget as requested, seconded by Ms. Abeyta-Stuve. Motion carried unanimously.
9. OLD BUSINESS

9.1. Juvenile Diversion Program Supervisor / DACJJCB Coordinator (Update)

Mr. Nuñez said we went through a hiring process for the Juvenile Diversion Program Supervisor and would like to introduce Ms. Grace Telles as the Juvenile Diversion Program Supervisor and DACJJCB Coordinator which was approved recently through the City of Las Cruces Human Resources Department.

Grace said thank you for this opportunity and will continue to work hard.

Board Members said Congratulations!

Mr. Nuñez said he will send a press release in announcing Grace Telles as the Juvenile Diversion Program Supervisor for the Juvenile Citation Program and Coordinator for DACJJCB.

9.2. Continuum (Updates)

Mr. Nuñez said he would like to invite any organization / agencies to provide updates on back at school, how to move forward, summer, fall session, how can we improve our services and communication with one another, etc.

Mr. Rank said according to legislation the broadband is an issue, we are last in the country, because of our legislators, Washington, and elsewhere. They are pushing in having broadband be a priority at our local level knowing our kids need assistance, etc. As a board we can write a letter to our legislator in reference to this issue. Trauma is also an issue; I have taken a position as Trauma Therapist assisting at the schools. We also have the boarder issue, there have been closers in Chihuahua and Juárez regarding COVID-19, need to pay attention to that issue.

Ms. Abebyta-Stuve said this will touch on a couple of items Mr. Rank had said. At the city we do know that we will receive approximately 23 million of rescue plan and will be having work sessions. Coordinating with the county to make sure we are expanding to our county residents. I am now the New chair of the community school board. A lot of these topics correspond with each other, when I hear these types of comments, I am taken note to present and proud to serve with Mr. Kavanaugh.
Mr. Nuñez introduced Lieutenant Joy Wiitala, she is the community outreach division.

Lieutenant Wiitala said she is excited to be here. I oversee the community partnership unit; includes our School Resource Officers (SRO), and community policing officers. I am well versed, have been in internal affairs, police academy, on patrol, yes, many different hats throughout my career as well. Super excited to be here, I have always had a passion working with the youth. Excited to learn what we are doing for our youth and community. Looking forward in helping.

Ms. Madrid said I believe everyone agrees and welcome. Honor to have qualified board members on this board. Thank you for taking the time.

Mr. Nuñez said we are currently working on the 2nd year of the 4-year term CYFD Grant.

9.3. Next Sub-Committee Meeting – Thursday, May 13, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

Ms. Telles said that in the past we have met and have great discussions. In the past we submitted a questionnaire, received great information, but need to continue providing ideas,

Mr. Nuñez said next board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 9, 2021 at 12:00 p.m.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Rank moved to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Abeyta-Stuve. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 12:42 p.m.

Recording Secretary Date