

1 **DOÑA ANA COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE CONTINUUM BOARD**
2 **October 30, 2024**

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4 The following are summary minutes from the Doña Ana County Juvenile Justice
5 Continuum Board meeting held on Wednesday, October 30, 2024, at 12:00 p.m., 340 N.
6 Reymond St., Las Cruces, New Mexico.

7
8 **MEMBERS PRESENT:** Brian Kavanaugh (FYI)
9 Jesse Gonzales (LCPD, resource officer)
10 Richard Johnson (JPO DAC)
11 Cassie McClure proxy (CLC/ Mayor's Office)
12 Robert Nunez, (City of Las Cruces, Parks & Recreation)
13 Chief Vanessa Ordoñez (Anthony NM Police)
14 Tessa Abeyta (DAC Sheriff Office)
15 Camiqa Ramirez (Youth Development and Diversion)
16 Manuel Arellano (LCSCA)
17 Lisa Chavez (CYFD)
18 Brian Steinmetz (CLC Parks & Recreation)
19 Eddie Corona,

20
21 **MEMBERS ABSENT:** Jeremy Story (LCPD)
22 Marianne Hernandez (CYFD-PS)
23 Lindsay McDonnel-Benatar (Public Defenders Dept)
24 Carmen Lucero (Drug Court 3rd Judicial District)
25 Rev. George Miller (El Calvario Church)

26
27 **OTHERS PRESENT:** Pat Acosta, Youth Development and Diversion
28 Kaley Martinez

29
30 **STAFF PRESENT:** Hazel Nevarez, (Office Manager, Parks and Recreation)
31 Sofia Hughes (Case Manager/Youth Services)
32 Eddie Pardon (Recording Secretary)

33
34 **1. CALL TO ORDER**

35 The meeting was called to order and recognized the meeting as having a legal
36 quorum.

37
38 **2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

39 All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

40
41 **3. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

42 Board members, staff, and guest introduced themselves.

43
44 **4. CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

45 None.

1 **5. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA**

2 Move to approve the agenda as presented by Chief Ordonez, seconded by Tessa
3 Abeyta. Motion carried unanimously.
4

5 **6. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - June 26, 2024**

6 Move to approve the minutes by Ms. McClure, seconded by Tessa Abeyta. Motion
7 carried unanimously.
8

9 **7. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

10 None.
11

12 **8. NEW BUSINESS**

13
14 **8.1 FY25 Doña Ana County Juvenile Justice Continuum Grant Fund**

15 Budget received from CYFD. They are going to Council on Monday for final
16 approval. There are two, one with Children, Youth, and Family Department with
17 the logo, and the other one. This is what has been funded for the next three years.
18 There were four continuums, and CYFD had short staff issues and there was a
19 delay, and some small problems with the numbers but Mr. Lewis took care of that.
20 Pat Acosta will be able to go to the CYFD portal and start billing as of July to now.
21 This is one of two programs that have changed their programming. There used to
22 be level 1, level 2, level 3 consider as a program. There is still JARC which is one
23 of the programs, but have added three new programs to the curriculum; Positive
24 Action, Life Skills, and starting promising program called Tip. This is the only
25 program in the state that are servicing youth who are being changed or cited with
26 battery against a household member. Working closely with the community. First
27 Tip graduated this past Monday and was a success. This program has to be done
28 gender separate due to the citation. COVID did see uptick on battery of a
29 household member. They have spoken to Professor Edwards at the university she
30 is going to be training and working with them as she is interested in the research,
31 so the program can become evidence based. It is great when funding sources
32 require they look at evidence based. Want programs that show that they work and
33 effective. Also need to create something that represents the community. There
34 was a question about the program being gender separate and is the curriculum
35 and research is conducive to transgender youth or LGBTQ youth. The comment
36 was just that the curriculum does not include boys and girls. All other curriculum
37 depending on referrals and source they have done co-ed groups, and separate
38 groups. With the Tip program need to address issues of power and control, girls
39 talk about what they did. When doing teen dating violence awareness, can do co-
40 ed. They have taken the time to also address the needs of transgender and
41 LGBTQ in the groups. It was brought up violence against LGBTQ in their homes,
42 and particular trans-youth is higher. That has not been seen on the referrals as of
43 yet and will be addressed. Question of virtual classrooms, and that is not being
44 done at this time, but do have the capacity to do it in the future. They go to the
45 community to provide the classes. As trauma they are required to meeting the
46 clients/ participants where they are, and that is done.

1
2 La Casa does not have the community response that it used to have, as the events
3 do not have a lot of activity. In New Mexico there the possibility for youth to file
4 their own restraining orders, effective as of last year. In Texas youth can start
5 receiving service in the shelters.
6

7 The difference from last year to this year on the budget is they are introducing
8 three different programs. And also needed to include the previous year's JARC
9 (example) and utilize the number as the base of projected service. Last year was
10 \$377,000, this year up to \$534,000. There is surplus of funding for continuums
11 right now as there are decreased continuums over the years. Three of the
12 programs are funded well in regards to positive action, life skills, and teen
13 intervention. Through the juvenile reporting center it was reduced. But if data
14 shows a need for additional funding, there will be that opportunity at midyear to go
15 in front of JJAC to propose additional funding for that specific area. Last four years
16 funded at \$111,000 per year, this year at \$83,000, so there is an opportunity for
17 increase as long as there is data to provide CYFD and made the recommendation
18 through this board. Question of does the continuum face a challenge with funding
19 with these new programs since there is no previous year data for calculation
20 purposes. At the time it was asked if these programs would replace in level one,
21 and so those were recommended to be used. Suggestion if the City had
22 opportunity to allow for additional programs and services that that same
23 opportunity is provided through the continuum board. As we only have four of the
24 five funded programs. That would allow that opportunity, maybe not this fiscal year
25 but possibly coming up years. This is a three year contract.
26

27 **9. ACTION ITEMS**

28 **9.1 Structure of Board**

29 This was discussed last June the structure of the board. To date there are seven
30 voting members present, and have listed 13 current members. Missing DA's office.
31 Asking the board to look at the opportunity to structure the board to have an
32 executive board of voting members, and have advisory membership to still provide
33 the knowledge, expertise, and situations within the community to assist the
34 continuum advisory board. They are charged to analyze local transit for youth at
35 risk, assess community resource gaps that affect youth and families, build
36 partnerships with key community leaders that impact policy regarding youth, the
37 funding programming that directly impacts the concerns and issues facing the
38 youth, and involvement of community leaders and experts to address youth and
39 family issues. This continuum has been in Doña Ana County for 21 years.
40

41
42 With the current structure having a lot of difficulty with being able to complete
43 business. Do want to connect with all the core, top seven members to make sure
44 there is representation, and added four additional within the community to be able
45 to assist. This would be the core 11 voting members. Certainly we want to invite
46 the agencies, nonprofit, families, all local schools, government agencies to be

1 involved for which this board could successfully complete some business. Within
2 law enforcement and government there are multiple agencies. Be sure if the
3 primary core member is absent, any of the other agencies within that field would
4 be able to vote as proxy.
5

6 Listed on the sheet the first six are required per state, and JPO is number seven
7 as their partnership and involvement within the continuum throughout the region is
8 vital for all service providers for families to receive the needed services and
9 attention they need going through teenage years.
10

11 The county is designed through the county manager's office they can designate
12 their representative.
13

14 There would need to be another meeting to identify the 11 voting members. And
15 also to choose chair and vice-chair. The voting members would be amended with
16 the state and with CYFD. The bylaws will be reviewed also. They can retain and/or
17 replace voting members yearly.
18

19 Suggestion of a special work meeting to address the structure of the board and
20 how to go about it. All information, bylaws, etc, will be e-mailed to everyone, and
21 then set a meeting, possibly virtually for further discussion and clarifications. There
22 is some concern with disconnect/fragmentation of representation, even between
23 law enforcement, different agencies, entities. Currently meet every other month
24 but requirement is quarterly meeting. What to be sure to have a very productive
25 and strong board, and so further discussion is necessary.
26

27 Moved to table until next meeting by Tessa Abeyta, seconded by Brian
28 Kavanaugh. Motion carried unanimously.
29

30 **10. UPDATES**

31 They are busy and are in the transition. They are getting ready to get trained this
32 month. They will continue to provide the programs they have as they have the
33 referrals.
34

35 **10.1 YDD Program**

36 **10.2 JARC**

37 They have an active roster of 11 youth with citations, five school referrals. The
38 majority of the referrals are coming from schools or citations. Now have another
39 success coach and so have two success coaches. One is stationed at RGPI, and
40 LCPS has a lot of changes. One is assisting citations and community referrals in
41 general. Contract is still pending. They billed \$13,000. Working on increasing the
42 referrals in general. Stationed in three different schools. Doing a lot of outreach.
43 Also doing specific LGBTQ+ training and curriculum building for youth and families.
44
45

46 **10.3 JJAC Quarterly Meeting and Program Site Tour, September**

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2 **10.4 "Youth Program of the Year in NM" presented by NMRPA**

3 The program was awarded with the Youth Program of the Year by the New Mexico
4 Recreation and Parks Association. We were designated as the Youth
5 Development and Diversion Program of the year for the whole state of New Mexico
6 through the application process. This could not have been without the work of the
7 team.
8

9 Special kudos to Thomas for his surveys. One of the requirements that CYFD started
10 implementing mid-last year is if we were not submitting surveys at the time at discharges
11 or the final client review, the portal will not accept the billing. That is good. Proceeded
12 with a new survey, as they were really long, and are shorter now, and better.
13

14 Also, had the opportunity to host the JJAC meeting, the representatives that advocate for
15 all the continuums. And they requested a tour on September 16th, and also had the
16 meeting the September 17th. With the tour they saw the building, services provided.
17 Participants had to sign a release because they also wanted to observe a group, for which
18 the youth agreed, and so were able to be observed. There were good conversations,
19 wanting to know from respective communities what is the unique about the community
20 and how can they help. Talked the continuum coordinator position, and advocating to
21 increase the salary for that person.
22

23 There was an executive meeting yesterday, and requested permission to give them an
24 open letter of what we feel is needed. They receive services with FYI with meals which
25 is important but want to have some money just for healthy snacks. This would be monthly
26 to give youth. Saturdays have larger groups and no meals. Also training, doing focus
27 groups to really the needs of the communities.
28

29 The continuum coordinator position is having interviews this month, and hope to have
30 individual contracted by the first of the year.
31

32 **11. ADJOURNMENT**

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34 Chief Ordonez moved to adjourn, seconded by Tessa Abeyta. Motion carried
35 unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.
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41 _____
Recording Secretary

_____ Date