

MINUTES OF THE NEW MEXICO JUVENILE JUSTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, March 18, 2021 10:00 AM
Virtual Meeting via ZOOM

I. Call to Order at 10:00AM – Douglas Mitchell, Chair

II. Roll Call for Quorum: Cindy Varela, Grants Management Unit Manager

A quorum was established with the following members present:

Members Present

Douglas Mitchell, Chair	Anthony Trujillo, Vice Chair	Helen Cheromiah
Joel Hamilton	Tom Swisstack	Keryl Work
Honorable Alan Kirk	Roshanna Toya	May Sagbakken
Sarah Gettler	Albino Garcia, Jr.	Ted Lovato
Danielle Trujillo	Anna Maria Marshall	Moneka Stevens
Honorable Angie Schneider		

Members Absent

Michelle Torres	Ron West	Jenavieve Salas
Oscar Gonzalez	Ruben Barreras	

Guests in Attendance

Julie Sanchez	Lisa Zuhn	Rebecca Armstrong
Cassandra Montano	George Carrasco	Susan Gonzalez
Elle Hollon	Judge Catherine Begaye	Kirstin Keller
Robert Nunez	Judge Ward	Bianca Padilla
Carmela Romero	Grace Telles	David Sherman
Judy Lovato	Javier Amaro	

Staff in Attendance

Nick Costales, Deputy Director, Juvenile Justice Services	Consuelo Garcia, Grants Manager
William Kearney, Special Programs Manager/JJ Specialist	Louis Pacias, JCC Grants Manager
Cindy Varela, Grants Management Unit Manager	Samantha Rendon, Grants Manager
Patti Vowell, Statewide JDAI Coordinator	Samantha Lucas, Compliance Coordinator
Amanda Gray, Operations Research Analyst	Jeff Kolenda, Operations Research Analyst

III. Welcome and Approval of Agenda:

Chairman Doug Mitchell welcomed all and introduced new Committee members, Danielle Trujillo and Joel Hamilton. Based on expressed interest, Ms. Trujillo will serve on the Board Development Subcommittee and Mr. Hamilton will serve on the Planning & Legislative Subcommittee.

Mr. Mitchell requested that items on the Agenda that require action being reflected as such on future meeting agendas. Mr. Mitchell entertained a motion to approve the Agenda as drafted. Motion was made by Tom Swisstack and seconded Judge Kirk. Roll call vote was conducted and motion passed unanimously.

IV. Approval of December 3, 2020 Minutes:

Mr. Mitchell called for a motion to approve the minutes of the December 3, 2020 meeting. Motion made by Judge Kirk. With discussion, Albino Garcia made the request to add to the VII. Race Equity Workgroup Update section. The amended motion to defer approval of the December 3, 2020 Minutes was made by

Mr. Garcia and seconded by Judge Schneider. Roll call vote was conducted and the amended motion passed unanimously.

V. JJAC Subcommittee Updates:

a) Executive Subcommittee-Doug Mitchell, Chair

Mr. Mitchell reported that the Executive Subcommittee met March 8th, received Subcommittee and Race Equity Work Group updates, and set agenda items for the meeting.

b) Board Development Subcommittee

Sarah Gettler shared the Subcommittee has been working in a New JJAC Member orientation, along with having a Continuum site visit for new members. Additionally, the Subcommittee is looking at assigning experienced members as mentors to new members. The Subcommittee is also exploring holding a JJAC retreat in the fall of 2021, pandemic permitting. The Subcommittee is also developing a Race Equity library of resources and looking at training resources for JJAC members.

c) Grants & Programs Subcommittee- Judge Alan Kirk

Judge Kirk reported that the interim funding cycle was completed and the Subcommittee recommended the five continuums for requested funding, which was approved by the Cabinet Secretary. The Subcommittee will evaluate SFY 2022 funding once the legislative session is complete. Judge Kirk shared that a \$10,000 grant was provided to Pueblo of Isleta to support nation/tribe/pueblo staff training. Staff have been speaking with local officials in McKinley, San Juan, Curry and Cibola Counties about restarting their local continuum boards and funding programs for local needs.

A discussion ensued with respect to auditing of expenditures, marketing, community awareness and community engagement. This included the ways for local groups or organizations to avail themselves of the funding provided through the Continuums, training with respect to the processes and work of the Continuums and the concepts of JDAI, and progress with system assessments. Mr. Mitchell encouraged the Subcommittee to work with the System Improvement Subcommittee to identify ways to engage local communities and local programs currently not involved with their local board to get involved in their local board.

d) System Improvement Subcommittee- Albino Garcia, Jr.

Mr. Garcia reported that the Subcommittee met on December 9th. They discussed their definitions of System Improvement and how data plays a critical role in system improvement. He also reported that the Subcommittee had discussions about what community engagement looks like within the juvenile justice system and the use of the local Continuums as a vehicle for community engagement, and how best to inform and engage the community.

Mr. Garcia suggested JJAC members and staff do a “self-assessment”, including questions regarding detention, race, the definition of community engagement, etc. Mr. Mitchell suggested that the Subcommittee work on bringing something forward for further discussion.

Mr. Garcia spoke to “Undoing Racism” training discussed in past meetings, and that if funds aren’t available, his organization will cover the costs for JJAC members to receive the training. It’s \$6,000 for a half day and \$12,000 for a full day, and his Board has agreed to this expense. Mr. Mitchell commented that the next step would be for the Subcommittee to provide a synopsis of the training so members can review it and determine if they would like to participate, and then if there is a sufficient interest to move forward with this training.

e) Planning & Legislative Subcommittee

Judge Schneider shared that the Subcommittee has met and developed the process to develop the State's Three-Year Plan. The two-day planning retreat has been scheduled on April 15th and 16th, with morning sessions each day from 8:30 am to 11:00 am, and afternoon sessions each day from 2:00 pm to 4:30 pm. Two Lunch and Learns have been scheduled for Wednesday, March 31, from 12 noon to 1:00 pm, and Wednesday, April 7, from 12 noon to 1:00 pm to share the state of current priorities, and survey and crime data.

VI. Race Equity Statement | ACTION ITEM

Mr. Mitchell made the motion to approve the Race Equity statement drafted by the Race Equity Workgroup. Joel Hamilton seconded the motion. Mr. Mitchell called for discussion. Judge Schneider and Albino Garcia thanked all of the Workgroup members for their efforts into the final Race Equity Statement. Mr. Garcia stressed the work is not complete, but it is about putting in to practice what is in the Statement. Two typos were fixed in the draft. Mr. Mitchell called for the motion to be for the amended Statement. Ms. Varela called roll for the vote, and the Race Equity Statement was passed unanimously.

Mr. Mitchell made a motion to send the Statement to the CYFD Cabinet Secretary, the Governor and Legislative Leadership. In addition, it will be sent to the Chief Justice and Senior Justice of the New Mexico Supreme Court, and to Continuum Coordinators, for local juvenile justice boards. CYFD staff will develop the transmittal for the Statement to be shared with the above audiences identified. The CYFD PIO will be engaged to explore different media avenues for the Statement. Mr. Mitchell requested the Roll Call vote be taken, and the motion was passed unanimously.

VII. Updates – Written reports submitted by staff

a) State Executive and Legislative Update – Nick Costales, Deputy Director JJS

Mr. Costales shared information about three legislative bills being considered during the current legislative session. SB257, providing Title IVe resources to juvenile justice juveniles beyond the age of 18 did not move forward this session. The bill removing juvenile fines and fees was passed and is expected to be signed. Also, there is a House bill requiring Race Equity Training for State Agencies.

Vice Chair Trujillo asked if JJAC had a position on a bill that would impact juveniles sentenced to life sentences. Mr. Costales explained SB247 lowers the review timeframe from after 30 years to after 15 years, with review every 5 years if the juvenile is not previously released. Mr. Mitchell indicated JJAC does not have a position but would look to have one as the bill comes up in the future.

b) Federal Update – Bill Kearney, Special Programs Manager/Juvenile Justice Specialist

Bill Kearney shared that CYFD is awaiting the release of OJJDP's FFY 2021 Title II Formula Grant application process. Once released, CYFD will develop and submit its application for FFY 2021 federal funds.

c) Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative – Patti Vowell, Statewide JDAI Coordinator

Chairperson Mitchell asked about which System Assessments were up next. Ms. Vowell shared Chaves and Eddy; Lea; Taos, Union, and Colfax; Santa Fe, Rio Arriba, and Los Alamos; and Las Cruces counties.

Mr. Mitchell asked about the review and input during the RAI revision and validation process now underway. Ms. Vowell shared currently the instrument and data is initial, internal review. There was discussion whether JJAC had a role in this process, and Mr. Mitchell indicated that they do not have the expertise and input should be received from appropriate stakeholders as CYFD meets its statutory responsibility for the RAI tool.

d) Grants Management Unit Update - Cindy Varela, Grants Management Unit Manager

Mr. Mitchell complimented Ms. Varela on the grant status charts and the ease to stay on top of expenses.

Mr. Mitchell asked if Navajo Nation could have a local Continuum board. Mr. Costales shared the good partnership with Navajo Nation and the movement in that direction. Ms. Vowell shared Navajo Nation had participated in San Juan County when they had an active board. Outreach will be made to tribal officials as the pandemic restrictions lift.

e) Detention and Compliance Monitoring Update – Samantha Lucas, Compliance Coordinator

Ted Lovato asked about current juvenile detention center bed capacities, and in-county and out-of-county placements. Ms. Armendariz shared current capacities – Bernalillo County: 78 beds (some under remodel), San Juan County: 34 beds, Lea County: 32 beds, and Dona Ana County: 51 beds.

Mr. Mitchell indicated he would like to see longitudinal incident report information to see trends. He also asked for definitions of what constitutes an incident. Ms. Armendariz said she would share the “incidents” definition from New Mexico Administrative Code (NMAC).

Mr. Garcia asked if statewide juvenile probation numbers could be provided, along with costs. Mr. Lovato stated that analysis should be on services, not staff, in looking at the broader context of more in-depth service delivery. Juvenile probation numbers will be provided to JJAC semi-annually.

VIII. Continuum Coordinator Update

Bianca Padilla, Grant County Continuum Coordinator, shared the Continuums’ experience onboarding to the new JJS Grant Management System. Carmela Romero, Bernalillo County Continuum Coordinator, .

IX. Public Comment

Mr. Mitchell asked if there was any public comment. None was offered from attendees.

X. Adjournment

Mr. Mitchell thanked everyone for their participation. Mr. Mitchell noted the next scheduled meeting will be Thursday, June 17, 2021, via ZOOM. The additional meeting dates for the balance of 2021 are September 16, 2021 and December 16, 2021. He asked members to start thinking about how future meetings will be scheduled – going back to in-person, via Zoom, or a hybrid of the two formats. He asked that it be put on the June 17th meeting for discussion.

Mr. Mitchell called for a motion to adjourn, Mr. Ted Lovato so moved, Mr. Joel Hamilton seconded. Roll call vote was conducted by Ms. Cindy Varela. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Minutes Approved on: June 22, 2021

by:



Douglas Mitchell, Chair