

MINUTES OF THE NEW MEXICO JUVENILE JUSTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, August 11, 2020 10:00 AM

Virtual Meeting via ZOOM

I. Call to Order at 10:10AM – 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	Honorable Alan Kirk	Ron West
Jenavieve Salas	Tom Swisstack	Anna Marie Marshall
May Sagbakken	Albino Garcia, Jr.	Donna Bownes
Honorable Angie Schneider	Sarah Gettler	Keryl Work
Helen Cheromiah	Anthony Trujillo	Roshanna Toya
Ted Lovato		

Members Unable to Attend

Michelle Torres	Oscar Gonzalez	Ruben Barreras
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Guests in Attendance

Desa Malina, Coordinator, Luna-Hidalgo Cos.
Jesus Romero, Coordinator, San Miguel Co.
Jon Lund, Coordinator, Lincoln Co.
Kirstin Keller, Coordinator, City of Socorro
George Carrasco, Coordinator, City of Santa Fe
Cassandra Montano, Coordinator, Valencia Co.
Rebecca Armstrong, Coordinator, Torrance Co.
Judy Lovato, Coordinator, Sandoval County
Bianca Padilla, Coordinator, Grant County
Noelle Chavez, Provider, Valencia County
Nora Lovato, Coordinator, Rio Arriba County
Robert Nunez, Coordinator, Las Cruces
Jeremias Silva, Fiscal Agent, Valencia County

Staff in Attendance

Nick Costales, Deputy Director JJS Field Services
William Kearney, Special Programs Manager
Cindy Varela, Grants Management Unit Manager
Consuelo Garcia, Grants Manager
Samantha Lucas, Compliance Coordinator
Patti Vowell, Statewide JDAI Coordinator
Steven Brooks, Statewide RRED Coordinator
Louis Pacias, Grants Manager
Amanda Grey, Operations Research Analyst
William Romero, CYFD Associate Deputy Director

Jeanne Masterson, CYFD Associate Deputy Director
Erika Meadows, Chief JPO
Cody McNeil, JPO Supervisor
Nathan Driver, JPO Supervisor
Dora Ysasi, Chief JPO
Diane Anglada, Chief JPO
Andrea Sandoval, Chief JPO
Kim Mangan, Chief JPO
Margie Miller, Chief JPO
Tara Dudley, JPO
Kenneth Stowe, Policy Analyst NM PED

III. Welcome and Approval of Agenda: Douglas Mitchell, Chair

WELCOME: Mr. Mitchell welcomed all in attendance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Mr. Mitchell noted that the Agenda had been sent out the previous week and all members had had a chance to review. Mr. Mitchell then called for objections or changes and none were voiced so the Agenda was adopted as drafted.

IV. Approval of June 16, 2020 Minutes

Tom Swisstack made a motion, seconded by Donna Bownes, to approve the minutes of the June 16, 2020 meeting. The minutes were approved by roll call vote conducted by Ms. Varela.

V. Introduction of CYFD JJS Field Services Staff/Special Programs Staff

Mr. Kearney and Ms. Lucas introduced Special Programs staff via a slide presentation.

VI. JJAC Organizing Business

- a. **Vice-Chair Selection:** Mr. Mitchell noted that he has had numerous conversations with Mr. Kearney concerning this appointment and there were several individuals who indicated their willingness to serve if called upon. Mr. Mitchell stated that he had identified Anthony Trujillo, who brings both diversity and experience in the Juvenile Justice System, to serve as Vice-Chair. Mr. Mitchell nominated Mr. Trujillo to serve as the Vice-Chair.

Mr. Trujillo stated that he was encouraged to accepting the position because of the opportunity to mentor a young person into this position, which Mr. Trujillo intends to make one of his primary goals while in the position of Vice-Chair.

Mr. Mitchell then called for a second to his nomination of Mr. Trujillo as Vice-Chair. Tom Swisstack seconded. Mr. Mitchell then called for discussion. Donna Bownes stated that she was very impressed with Mr. Trujillo's approach to wanting to mentor a young person. With no further discussion, Mr. Mitchell asked Ms. Varela to conduct the Roll Call vote. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Mitchell welcomed Mr. Trujillo into his new position.

b. Subcommittees – Identify Subcommittees & Participation- Bill Kearney

Mr. Kearney reported that the work group (Judge Kirk, Roshanna Toya, Tom Swisstack, Albino Garcia, Jr., and Ted Lovato) met twice and examined the federal and state responsibilities of JJAC, as well as the current environment, in creating the proposed subcommittee structure. With the Executive Committee comprised of the JJAC Chair and Vice Chair and Subcommittee Chairs, the

four proposed subcommittees are: Board Development Subcommittee; System Improvement and Data Subcommittee; Planning and Legislative Subcommittee; and Grant and Program Subcommittee.

Mr. Kearney shared the “Underlying Principles” the work group developed, showing that they support the culture of JJAC with how the Subcommittees work:

- All Subcommittees will have youth representation.
- All Subcommittees will examine and address racial and ethnic disparities with ultimate RRED responsibilities with the Executive Subcommittee.
- All Subcommittees will be comprised of JJAC members and JJAC Chair-appointed non-JJAC members as advisory members of the Subcommittees and that there will be balanced representation with community engagement as well as system representatives on the Subcommittees.

Executive Subcommittee: Mr. Kearney reviewed that the Executive Committee will be comprised of the JJAC Chair, the Vice-Chair and the other Subcommittee Chairs. Mr. Kearney stated that if this does not result in youth representation on the Executive Committee, then youth will be appointed to the Executive Subcommittee so there is youth representation.

Board Development Subcommittee:

This subcommittee will focus on JJAC board member development and support, to support JJAC members and Subcommittee members and non-JJAC members success. The core responsibilities will be to develop and provide a JJAC member orientation; to identify and create opportunities for Board member training and development from national and regional sources as well as custom-developed training; and to develop the mechanism and prepare youth for JJAC participation and provide the support for youth success. The subcommittee will identify reducing racial and ethnic disparities-specific training resource(s) for all Board members to complete.

System Improvement Subcommittee:

Mr. Kearney stated that the Annie E. Casey Foundation’s Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative is used as the overall approach to the State’s juvenile justice system improvement. The Subcommittee will review and provide recommendations to support system improvement efforts and identify data needs in order to drive data driven decisions and recommendations by JJAC. The Subcommittee will also review and provide guidance on Juvenile Detention Center compliance and State Standards, and compliance to the Four Core Requirements of the JJDP Act (as amended).

Planning and Legislative Subcommittee:

Mr. Kearney explained that this Subcommittee would oversee JJAC planning responsibilities and monitor and propose statutory updates or new legislation. This subcommittee would also oversee the development and monitoring of the JJAC Three-Year Strategic Plan, currently being supported by a work group. This subcommittee would also examine Federal and State Juvenile Justice Legislation and recommend enhancements, as well as examine and advocate for funding of Federal and State Juvenile Justice and at-risk youth programs.

Grant & Program Subcommittee:-

Mr. Kearney explained that this Subcommittee will review and provide guidance and recommendations for the Juvenile Continuum Grant funds and the Federal Formula Grant funds. This Subcommittee would be comprised of JJAC members without funding or Continuum conflicts

of interest and can include non-JJAC members appointed by the Chair, who would also be without conflicts, to serve in an advisory capacity.

Mr. Swisstack commented that what the work group had tried to do was start to develop a footprint of where things are currently as well as where they would like to see things progress so that there are measurables to document for legislators and the communities showing what progress is being made to move in the direction of the common goal within each of these Subcommittees. Mr. Swisstack further commented that it is crucial, to track the data on the progress being made so that future Boards can actually see what works and what does not work.

Mr. Albino Garcia, Jr. commented that he understood the concern regarding conflict of interest mentioned in the description of the Subcommittees. As a recipient of Continuum funding, he shared that diversity is critical, not only race and gender diversity, but also subcultural. For a long time there have been heavy system-experienced stakeholders running the show with regard to juvenile justice in New Mexico, and he would like to see the Board lift up non-system stakeholders, not just recipients of grants, etc., or providers, but really take a deeper dive in the non-system stakeholders with the capacity to influence the narrative of juvenile justice and juvenile justice reform.

Ms. Roshanna Toya asked Mr. Kearney if there is a requirement or expectation for Board members to participate in subcommittees. Mr. Kearney responded that there is nothing in the Bylaws of the Board which dictates that a Board member is required to participate in a Subcommittee. Ms. Toya expressed that it was her hope that most or all Board members will participate in a Subcommittee, which is where the “heavy lifting” of the Board gets done.

Mr. Swisstack asked what the process is, if this draft is approved, for how members would be assigned to these Subcommittees. Mr. Mitchell responded that the goal for today’s meeting would be to try to identify Chairs for each of the Subcommittees the Bylaws allow him, as the Board Chair, to make appointments. Mr. Swisstack then asked if there could be a timeframe set up, perhaps 72 hours or so, for Board members to communicate with Mr. Kearney what their interests would be with regard to serving on these Subcommittees. Mr. Swisstack also noted that Mr. Kearney could then pass this along to Mr. Mitchell so he would have the Board members’ input in the decision-making process. Mr. Mitchell noted that today’s goal was to try to establish Chairs for the Subcommittees and then at the next Board meeting in September to actually formalize the Subcommittees. Mr. Kearney confirmed that the process as suggested by Mr. Swisstack could work with that timeframe.

Mr. Mitchell asked the Board members to indicate their interest in serving on the Subcommittees as well as chairing a Subcommittee and then acting on this as a package. Mr. Swisstack agreed with this approach. Mr. Mitchell then asked if there were any objections to this process moving forward. None were expressed. Mr. Kearney responded that he would proceed with a follow-up e-mail to all Board members giving them a one-week window. Mr. Mitchell then asked that for the sake of full transparency Mr. Kearney include in the e-mail that if Board members do not respond then they will be appointed to one of the Subcommittees. Mr. Kearney indicated that he will do so.

VII. Three Year Strategic Plan

Mr. Kearney stated that the Strategic Planning work-group has worked with staff and drafted two Survey Monkey surveys, one for system and non-system community stakeholders and one for parents and youth. He noted at the end of each survey, there is an opportunity for the individual

to identify if they are interested in participating in a focus group. Anthony Trujillo asked if the parent and youth part of the survey would be available in Spanish, noting particularly the needs of the community in which he works. Mr. Kearney responded that he would look to have a Spanish version of the youth/parent survey.

Mr. Garcia then asked what types of response numbers are expected from this survey. Mr. Kearney noted that there are 32 counties and 20 funded Continuums, however, there will be a broader distribution through Chief and Supervising JPOs, and JPOs will be able to distribute the survey to youth and parents. The target is between 500 to 1,000 responses.

Mr. Mitchell asked if any particular focus was being done in the Native communities such as in the Farmington area or any of the Pueblos. Mr. Kearney responded they will work through Donalyn Serracino, the Tribal Liaison, to determine the best means of distribution in those areas.

Mr. Costales commented that one of the things found to be most effective in getting people involved in the JDAI Connect was to simply emphasize the importance of it and that will probably be a key piece in this survey as well. Mr. Costales also noted one of the things his office has learned during COVID is that they are connecting with their youth and families much more through technology so hopefully using those same means to get this survey in their hands will result in a great number of responses as well.

VIII: Race Equity

Mr. Mitchell stated this item was put on the Agenda pursuant to the discussion introduced by Mr. Albino Garcia, Jr. at the June meeting. Mr. Kearney asked Mr. Garcia to reintroduce the topic.

Mr. Garcia expressed that while some communities are beginning to settle down, there is still a lot of national drama and tensions with federal officers being sent to select cities nationwide, including Albuquerque, with respect to the “Black Lives Matter” movement. Mr. Garcia noted that the surge in New Mexico has subsided but there are still “rumblings”, so he wondered if the Board could carefully design something that does not isolate or polarize them as an entity in order to address some of the internalized racial divides that continue to exist. He expressed that this has been going on for long time and it even ties directly into the racial make-up of the Board, and he was happy to see African-American representatives being added to the Board.

Mr. Mitchell expressed his preference would be to focus on the positive aspects of the work done by the Board over the past 10 years or so, while acknowledging that there is still work to be done. This includes all the Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparities (RRED) work that has been done at all the detention centers and probation offices, as well as the Continuums, which reflects the commitment to deal with this issue.

Mr. Garcia commented that the Southwest Organizing Project and their allies posted “demands to the Governor” on Juvenile Justice on social media, and driven by lack of awareness of what is happening with respect to COVID. Mr. Garcia commented that Board members know because they are actively working in the field but he didn’t believe the general public is aware of what has been happening with regard to safety and the reduction in the number of children in detention.

Mr. Garcia wondered how to express this in the current climate and suggested having a small round-table discussion with people that are not on the JJAC board who are rallying around the decarcerate/defund movement in an effort to discuss these issues as they pertain to juvenile justice. Mr. Garcia stated that he was willing to reach out to these stakeholders to see if they are willing to meet in order to hear their concerns and ideas, and asked if this was something the Board

should pursue.

May Sagbakken stated that as a new member of the Board she does not know what has been done in terms of RRED, the impact of that work, the goals of that work, what the training contains, etc., so it would be helpful to get an introduction to the work that has been done, the impact of that work and the plan moving forward at the next meeting. She also agreed that it would be informative to the public if that could be communicated somehow with a statement or comprehensive view of what is happening or the role/standpoint of the Board.

Donna Bownes suggested a work group within JJAC of those who are interested to ferret out some of these ideas and then present something to the Board. Mr. Mitchell agreed that this was a good idea but again stated that this Board represents Juvenile Justice and any statement would have to be narrowly crafted to deal with that; Ms. Bownes agreed.

Mr. Mitchell went on to state that he realizes there is still work to be done, that there is certainly no reason to “declare victory and go home”. Mr. Mitchell restated that if a letter is sent out it will be representative of JJAC and not the community-at-large. He suggested that other stakeholders are welcome to submit information as they see fit to the Governor’s Office, but the Board would want to keep the focus narrowed to JJAC concerns and issues.

Ms. Bownes agreed and stated that she thinks of this as an educational outreach piece, due to the fact that many people are not aware that juvenile detention centers are closing and how much progress has been made. Ms. Bownes also noted that this educational piece could also be something that fits within the Three-Year Strategic Plan as far as goals and objectives.

Mr. Swisstack agreed with the discussion and that this needs to be narrowly tailored to deal with juveniles, but noted that in the newly approved structure of the Board it was agreed that there would be racial and ethnic balances and to try to continue to address those issues across all of the Subcommittees. Mr. Swisstack stated that to treat this separately and not hold each of the Subcommittees responsible to continue to improve on what has already been accomplished in the juvenile arena is just going to separate things again when “we’re trying to say we need to move all the horses in the same direction”. Mr. Swisstack reiterated that he agrees with the concept and that the better it can be shown to the public what has already been done and the direction the organization is moving, would allow a better measure of whether the Board is being honest and truthful.

Judge Alan Kirk commented that as the Board proceeds with trying to develop a statement educating people, Continuums should be involved in the process. Judge Kirk particularly noted that the Continuums have a really good concept of what is happening at the local level, particularly in rural New Mexico, and to remember that this is a whole state.

Mr. Ted Lovato asked if Mr. Garcia had information or literature outlining the juvenile justice issues from the other organizations as he would be very interested in seeing what has been submitted. Mr. Garcia stated he would send that to Mr. Kearney after today’s meeting so he could then distribute the information to the rest of the Board. Mr. Mitchell agreed this would be good information to have.

Mr. Lovato then noted that there has been a recent increase in youth gun violence and overall level of violence that has been occurring across many states, and it’s of great concern to many communities. Mr. Lovato stated that this will definitely be an issue that will need to be addressed by the Board sooner than later since local communities are starting to form active groups to begin addressing some of these issues.

Mr. Mitchell expressed his uncertainty as to next steps on this topic. Mr. Garcia suggested that perhaps there could be a small workgroup of just a couple of other Board members, maybe the ones that have participated in today's discussion, and then anyone else who might be interested, to come together and read the document that was put out as it was something that could inform a position or stance that the Board assumes together, which he believes is greatly needed. Mr. Garcia agreed with Mr. Mitchell noting that he has seen the shift in the system with all of the changes that have occurred, also noting that it is still not enough.

Mr. Mitchell then asked Mr. Garcia if he would like to propose a motion in this regard. Mr. Garcia proposed that there be volunteers from the Board to design a response/statement to address JJAC's collective will. Mr. Mitchell then asked for a second. Roshanna Toya seconded the motion. Mr. Mitchell asked Mr. Garcia if he would be willing to expand his motion to include CYFD staff. Mr. Garcia responded that he would amend the motion to include CYFD staff. Mr. Mitchell then asked if there were further discussion.

Mr. Mitchell reiterated that the motion is for a select group of JJAC Board members to participate with CYFD staff in discussion for an initial draft of a letter or some kind of response for the next meeting. Mr. Mitchell stated that this might also indicate all the other system people and community people who are working on this issue, such as Mr. Brooks, the JDAI Leadership team with the Supreme Court and the NM Counties as well as others, who are working on this also, in order to bring new Board members a little more up to date on what is happening.

Mr. Mitchell then asked for further comments on the motion. Mr. Mitchell asked for four or five volunteers to produce a draft of information to be sent to all Board members for further input. Mr. Mitchell asked Mr. Garcia if he was agreeable to this approach, to which he replied in the affirmative. Mr. Mitchell asked for the Roll Call vote for establishing this workgroup. Ms. Varela proceeded with the Roll Call vote. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Mitchell then asked Mr. Kearney to send out a message to solicit volunteers for this work-group. Mr. Kearney affirmed that he will do so as a follow-up to today's meeting.

IX. Public Comment

Mr. Mitchell asked if there were any public comment on the ZOOM meeting.

Mr. Kearney then asked to present the updates he had from the previous meeting.

Mr. Kearney noted the previous conversation about representation on the Board across all communities and all racial and ethnic groups. As a follow-up, Mr. Garcia had shared names of people with strong community experience, and two who match Board categories have been forwarded to the Governor's Office of Boards and Commissions. He also noted that there needs to be two or more youth members added to the Board and that these can actually be individuals who are up to the age of 28 at the time of their appointment.

Mr. Kearney referred to the request by Ms. Sagbakken at the last meeting for information regarding female-specific programming and this has been sent out and mentioned that Girls Circle program is being done by a number of the Continuums as well as the Juvenile Community Corrections program. He also mentioned the SAM program now being provided in Santa Fe, as well as the Nurturing Parent program done by PB&J at the Girls' Reintegration Center and the Mind, Body and Spirit for Latinas program and Mother/Daughter Circle program the Las Cruces Juvenile Citation program provides.

Mr. Kearney reported that a Letter of Appreciation was drafted and signed by Mr. Mitchell to Ms.

Gerri Bachicha, and it was presented to Ms. Bachicha at a meeting the previous day, 08/10/2020.

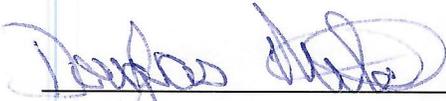
Mr. Kearney informed the Board that Javier Amaro, the Continuum Coordinator from Las Cruces, finished as Coordinator this past Friday, leaving the position to care for his mother. Robert Nunez and Grace Telles on the call today are picking up the coordination for the Las Cruces Continuum. Judge Alan Kirk suggested that the Board draft a Letter of Appreciation for Mr. Amaro as well, noting that he spent six years working with the Board and deserves recognition for his service. Mr. Kearney stated that staff would draft the letter.

Mr. Mitchell then called again for any further public comment and none were offered.

- X. **Adjournment:** Mr. Mitchell then moved to adjourn. Ms. Bownes seconded the motion. Vote was confirmed via exit from ZOOM. Meeting adjourned at 12:06 p.m.

**Next meeting tentatively scheduled for
Thursday, September 24, 2020
10:00AM via ZOOM**

Minutes Approved by, on (date):

 9-28-20
(name), Chair