

**MINUTES OF THE NEW MEXICO JUVENILE JUSTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Thursday, February 17, 2022**  
**Virtual Meeting via ZOOM**

**I. Call to Order at 10:07 a.m.: Anthony Trujillo, Chair**

No quorum was available at this time so Chair Trujillo decided it would be best to have CYFD Cabinet Secretary Barbara J. Vigil give her remarks first, in the interest of her time constraints and to allow for a quorum to be established before continuing with the work of the Committee. Chair Trujillo expressed his gratitude to Secretary Vigil for meeting with the Committee today.

**II. Remarks by Honorable Barbara J. Vigil, CYFD Cabinet Secretary**

Secretary Vigil thanked Chair Trujillo and the members of JJAC for this opportunity to meet with them. Secretary Vigil introduced herself and expressed her hope and determination to improve the child welfare and juvenile justice system in New Mexico. Secretary Vigil gave some details regarding her background in this field, spanning more than two decades, as well as her heritage being rooted in northern New Mexico, her experience as a student at St. Katherine's School, and her judicial tenure. Secretary Vigil also noted her experience as a civil rights lawyer, representing clients from vastly varied backgrounds. Secretary Vigil gave additional background regarding her time spent on the Children's Court bench, commenting on her interest in improving the juvenile justice system in New Mexico with respect to the youth who appeared before her who often appeared in need of some guidance, support or additional resources. Secretary Vigil noted that a group had come together years ago, including Chair Trujillo and Mr. Ted Lovato, to examine how to collaborate in communities to facilitate this work across the many facets and entities involved, including education departments, law enforcement, the Courts, the Juvenile Probation Office, the Public Defender's Office, the District Attorney's Office, as well as the faith community and treatment providers. Secretary Vigil commented that this is the only way justice can resonate in our communities, our society and in our State, as these stakeholders come together to support one another in the effort to affect the behavior of individuals, giving them the support, they need to enable them to become successful, law-abiding citizens. Secretary Vigil described how this work evolved into the system of Continuum Boards across the State. In light of this background Secretary Vigil shared that one of the "pillars" of her leadership at CYFD is to be collaborative with communities and to ensure that there is mutual support in these efforts, not duplicating efforts or competing for resources unnecessarily. Secretary Vigil stated that JJAC is key in this endeavor by virtue of the members' skills, professional qualifications and experience in juvenile justice, and communities.

Secretary Vigil encouraged the Committee members to "think outside the box" to discover ways to influence communities, leaders, stakeholders to help "make things happen" and "happen quickly", not to "reinvent the wheel" but how to make that wheel rotate faster or perhaps slow down in certain areas. Secretary Vigil expressed her desire to be a partner with JJAC and that she and this Committee are here to serve the people of New Mexico and to work together to continue to make a difference. Secretary Vigil stated she would be committed to working with JJAC to find ways to get the funding resources out to communities where they are needed and reduce the fund balance, stating that "we are a conduit, not a barrier" for these funds.

Secretary Vigil concluded by saying that she is here to support and to work to provide ways to facilitate the work of the Committee for the people of New Mexico. Secretary Vigil noted that her door would always be open, she would always strive to be accessible, and that she looks forward to a continued and collaborative relationship with JJAC, and thanked the Committee for this opportunity to share with them.

Chair Trujillo thanked the Secretary for her comments and personally thanked her for her knowledge and experience that she has provided to him in the past which has brought him to his current place in this work. Chair Trujillo voiced his appreciation for Secretary Vigil's expression of support to JJAC overall, but especially with respect to the excess funds that need to be accessed.

Judge Schneider asked if Secretary Vigil knew what the outcome was with respect to the Legislative Finance Committee's plan to move some of the JJAC revolving funds. Secretary Vigil stated that her understanding was that things were okay with that fund for the present, however, she expressed the importance of getting those funds paid out so there does not continue to be a large fund balance, and her willingness to work with JJAC to remove any unnecessary barriers to getting these funds out into the communities. Secretary Vigil said, this was a priority for her and voiced her desire to set up a meeting soon with her team and a delegation from JJAC to explore this issue.

Mr. Garcia asked Secretary Vigil to share with JJAC the statement she made with respect to juvenile detention when she met with the Albuquerque Youth Justice Collaborative that he is part of, which he felt was very powerful. Secretary Vigil thanked Mr. Garcia for his leadership and work in Bernalillo County. With respect to juvenile detention Secretary Vigil stated that her philosophy goes back over 20+ years of dealing with system involved youth and that detention is not the answer. She did say that in certain circumstances it may be the last resort, but for the most part young men and women deserve the attention of the community outside the confines of a cell, because once they are put in a cell it is almost as though they are changed forever, so this needs to be used very sparingly, only in extreme cases to keep communities safe. Secretary Vigil went on to say that it is the responsibility of the community, as "the adults in the room", for what young people are doing, setting the rules and the boundaries to help these young people become contributing members to society. Secretary Vigil noted there is a fine balance to be maintained to keep communities safe but at the same time to ensure that detention is not being used just to make things easier, but that it is used only as a last resort for safety and security. Secretary Vigil again expressed that she would make every effort to be available to organizations such as the one represented by Mr. Garcia to answer questions and to listen to their concerns.

Secretary Vigil voiced her appreciation for the opportunity to speak to JJAC today. Chair Trujillo thanked Secretary Vigil again for participating in the meeting today.

### III. Roll Call for Quorum at 10:35 a.m.

A quorum was established with the following members present:

#### Members Present

Anthony Trujillo, Chair	Moneka Stevens	Hon. Alan Kirk
Ron West	Albino Garcia, Jr.	Roshanna Toya
Hon. Angie Schneider	Sarah Gettler	Annamaria Marshall
Ted Lovato	Danielle Trujillo	Tom Swisstack
Tina Harris		

Members May Sagbakken and Ruben Barreras joined the meeting later.

#### Members Absent

Oscar Gonzalez	Joel Hamilton	Keryl Work
Michelle Torres	Jenavieve Salas	Helen Cheromiah

#### Guests in Attendance

Hon. Barbara J. Vigil, CYFD Cabinet Secretary		Bianca Padilla
Alma Roberson	Sofia Hughes	Robert Nunez

Tabitha McMahon  
Carmela Romero  
Mateo Ortega  
Nora Lovato  
David Sherman

Bridgette Jones  
Desa Malina  
Jayde Burnell  
Ranisa Smith  
Rebecca Armstrong

Vidal Crespin  
Elly Hollon  
Melissa Denetdale  
Rachel Mohr-Richards

**CYFD JJS Field Services Staff in Attendance**

Corey Adams  
Cindy Varela  
Samantha Rendon  
Jeffrey Kolenda

Kim Mangan  
Consuelo Garcia  
Patti Vowell  
Jessica Reno

William Kearney  
Louis Pacias  
Samantha Armendariz

**IV. Welcome and Approval of Agenda:**

Chair Trujillo welcomed all in attendance and called for a motion to approve the Agenda. Judge Kirk so moved, seconded by Ms. Gettler. Roll call vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously.

**V. Approval of December 16, 2021 meeting minutes:**

Chair Trujillo called for a motion to approve the minutes as drafted. Judge Kirk so moved, seconded by Mr. Swisstack. Chair Trujillo called for any discussion, changes, additions or deletions; there were none. Roll call vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously.

**VI. Chairman Update: Anthony Trujillo, Chair**

Chair Trujillo reported that the Executive Subcommittee held a special meeting to deal with some issues that had arisen with respect to the By-Laws, Race Equity and the Funding Recommendations for the Legislature, noting that Secretary Vigil had given an update with regard to the funding issue.

**VII. JJAC Subcommittee Updates**

**a. Executive Subcommittee, Anthony Trujillo, Chair**

Chair Trujillo noted that the Race Equity question was further discussed in the Subcommittee meeting by Mr. Garcia with respect to Mr. Garcia's Subcommittee being the working committee to deal with the Race Equity issues, however, the oversight of Racial Equity would remain with the Executive Subcommittee

With respect to the question concerning the By-Laws that had arisen at the last JJAC meeting, specifically regarding membership, alternates and voting authority, Chair Trujillo stated he had contacted the Governor's Office for clarity on these issues, as the Governor is the appointing authority for this Committee. Chair Trujillo noted that the response received from the Governor's Counsel is in the member packets for today's meeting and asked that this be screen-shared, as he wished to read the response from the Governor's Counsel regarding his inquiry. The document was screen shared and Chair Trujillo proceeded to read it. Chair Trujillo then reported that this response was taken to the Executive Subcommittee and the Subcommittee proceeded to edit the JJAC By-Laws with respect to this issue. Chair Trujillo then called the members attention to the edited By-Laws in their packets, and these were also screen-shared, noting that any language that showed a strike-through was taken out of the By-Laws.

Mr. Lovato interjected that he believed there was a misunderstanding of the term alternate with respect to representation and acting Chair with reference to Committee work, but asked to be corrected if he was mistaken. Mr. Lovato continued by saying that the alternate selection or "in lieu of", referred to an existing JJAC member, not a new member from the community, so an acting Chair

for a meeting would be an existing appointee from the Governor's Office, if the Subcommittee Chair, or any Chair, was unavailable to meet on a designated day. Mr. Lovato then asked if any other member of the selected Board could act as an acting Chair for the purpose of such meeting, not new membership or "ad hoc". Chair Trujillo asked to finish with the discussion of the By-Laws edits because this question was also addressed in this process. Mr. Lovato agreed. Chair Trujillo asked that questions be held until the explanation of the By-Laws edits was complete as most questions would possibly be answered in this explanation.

Chair Trujillo noted that as the Executive Committee reviewed these edits new questions arose with respect to alternate and proxy votes being counted as part of the quorum for a meeting, and these questions have also been sent to the Governor's Office. Chair Trujillo again noted that all changes presented in these documents have been sent to the Governor's Office for review to ensure that JJAC is in compliance with the federal and state regulations, but no response has been received as of today's meeting, most likely due to the current Legislative Session which is just ending. Chair Trujillo reiterated that he is waiting for a response from the Governor's Office with respect to these edits and this is where things stand at present with respect to these issues.

Chair Trujillo encouraged the Committee members to read through this document to be aware of the proposed changes and that he would be sending out an e-mail update via Mr. Kearney when a response is received from the Governor's Office.

Chair Trujillo then addressed the question that had arisen previously regarding who would advocate for JJAC members with respect to potential conflicts, noting previous discussion regarding use of CYFD Counsel or the Attorney General's Office. Chair Trujillo reported that he had contacted the Attorney General's Office, but he did not get a definitive response in the form of a document, such as the one received from the Governor's Counsel, but that the Attorney General's Office indicated they would study the question and determine which division within the Attorney General's Office would address this for JJAC. Chair Trujillo reported that he has not received a response, again most likely due to the recent ending of the current Legislative Session. Chair Trujillo stated that he would stay in contact with the Attorney General's Office until a response is received, and that he would like to schedule a meeting with the AG's Office and the JJAC Executive Subcommittee to address these issues. Chair Trujillo again stated that once a response is received it will be sent out to all JJAC members.

Mr. Garcia asked to go back to the Racial Equity issue, stating that he believed there had been some confusion with the use of the word "oversight", and the agreement arrived at in the Executive Subcommittee was that his Subcommittee, the System Improvement Subcommittee, would drive the Racial Equity work. Mr. Garcia asked if his understanding was correct and for clarification. Chair Trujillo apologized for not making that clear in his previous comments today, and agreed that this was his understanding of the Executive Subcommittee's decision regarding the Racial Equity question. Judge Schneider shared her impression of the discussion in the Executive Subcommittee which was that the System Improvement Subcommittee would be intentionally advancing Racial Equity initiatives as opposed to overseeing these issues in the work of the other Subcommittees. Mr. Garcia reiterated his perception that the Executive Subcommittee had agreed that the System Improvement Subcommittee would drive the Racial Equity work on behalf of the Committee as a whole, and this work would exist throughout all the work of JJAC, however, the Executive Subcommittee would receive all information and recommendations first in order to present that information to the whole Committee. Mr. Garcia asked for confirmation of this from Chair Trujillo to which Chair Trujillo responded in the affirmative.

Mr. Garcia then stated that the motivation for the changes to the By-Laws with respect to proxies/alternates has never been clear. Mr. Garcia raised the question of whether previous proxy/alternate votes are valid. Chair Trujillo responded that this question has also been posed in the

request to the Governor's Office and the Attorney General's Office, which has not been answered yet. Ms. Sagbakken noted that she had assigned a proxy/alternate at the last meeting, which she believed Mr. Garcia was referring to, and that she had not wanted to assign a proxy/alternate due to her absence, but she was asked twice to do so, but could not remember who made the requests. Ms. Sagbakken simply wanted the Committee to know that she had only assigned the proxy/alternate upon request, and she had not initially wanted to do so. Ms. Sagbakken went on to comment that she is glad this issue is being clarified. Chair Trujillo agreed that this issue had not been clear in the past, but efforts are being made to make that clarification and the hope is to get answers that will keep JJAC in compliance with the federal and state regulations.

b. Grants & Programs Subcommittee; Hon. Judge Alan Kirk, Chair

Judge Kirk stated that the Subcommittee has met several times discussing issues with respect to funding and the Continuums. Judge Kirk thanked everyone for their efforts getting information disseminated to Legislators and community leaders with respect to the Legislative Finance Committee's recommendation and how strong this lobby is across the State.

Judge Kirk reported that the Subcommittee continually reviews Continuum expenditures, and he takes every opportunity to encourage the Continuums to get their programs running, use their appropriated funding, and to make sure the funds are drawn down. Judge Kirk did state that there were a few Continuums that are a little behind, but the hope is that they will get caught up. Judge Kirk also reported that he is encouraging Continuums to get their Budget Adjustment Requests in, and these are being approved, but stressed the importance of getting the reversion amounts reduced in order to deal with the Fund Balance Account.

**\*Action Item:** Approval of Recommending Opening Short Funding Cycle funding for \$400K.

Judge Kirk noted that the options are to let this amount remain and go into the Fund Balance Account, which will be added to the Continuum's reverted funds for the current year, and could put the amount in this fund over 1 million dollars.

Judge Kirk questioned the need for a motion here as the Committee had already approved \$500K, which includes the \$400K which remains. Judge Kirk stated that the issue is making this available in an urgent or timely manner, because of the time involved in accessing the funds and the short window of time for expending the funds before the end of the fiscal year. Judge Kirk reiterated the need for getting this funding out into the communities.

Chair Trujillo responded that he did not believe a new motion regarding the \$400K was necessary.

Judge Kirk asked Ms. Varela and Mr. Kearney if it were possible for Continuums to apply for this funding within the next 30 days and then get the requests approved at the next JJAC meeting, or if there was another procedural avenue. Mr. Kearney stated that this needs to be examined by Staff with respect to the processing and timing and what that process may involve.

The consensus was that another motion was not necessary at this time.

Judge Schneider asked what channels this process would involve and how long it might take, since as Judge Kirk mentioned, time is of the essence. Mr. Kearney and Ms. Varela responded that this has to go through Procurement, the Contract Development Unit, Legal and Budget. Chair Trujillo asked if all this was necessary since nothing was being added to the previously approved funding. Ms. Varela responded that this is the process for grant approvals. Chair Trujillo then asked if it is even possible for this to happen within the timeline as presented by Judge Kirk. Mr. Kearney responded that Staff will research that question to make sure any process put in place does not violate any restrictions currently

in place, but they will look for the most efficient way to accomplish this. Chair Trujillo asked if Judge Kirk could proceed by putting this out there for the Continuums. Mr. Kearney replied that Judge Kirk's Subcommittee does not initiate the process, it comes from CYFD. Judge Kirk asked if the Continuums could proceed with a preliminary request while Staff is researching the process and timing. Mr. Kearney asked Ms. Varela if an inquiry could be sent out to the Fiscal Agents of the Continuums with respect to their need for additional funding. Ms. Varela responded that yes, that could be done.

Ms. Stevens had a question about applying for these funds. Judge Kirk replied that this is done through the local Continuum. Ms. Stevens responded that Bernalillo County had created a barrier to accessing funds by requiring organizations seeking funding to provide insurance that has been deemed unaffordable by those organizations. Ms. Stevens then asked if Judge Kirk's Subcommittee could review these qualifications within the applications to reduce this barrier to organizations seeking to apply for funding. Judge Kirk replied that this has been a topic of discussion for the Grant Subcommittee, and they will continue to examine this and will consult with Mr. Kearney about this requirement. Judge Kirk continued by saying that his suggestion would be to examine whether this could be addressed through the administrative funding, what Continuums are allowed to spend administratively, which he believed was 5%, which may need to be a topic of future discussion. Ms. Stevens thanked Judge Kirk for his response.

Judge Schneider made the suggestion that the Grant Applications go to the Continuum Coordinators as well as to the Fiscal Agents, so nothing is overlooked. Judge Schneider noted that she, too, is hearing the complaint about the insurance requirements from many sources, and this is one of the barriers mentioned in Secretary Vigil's comments which needs serious examination and action.

**\*Action Item:** Approve Recommendation for higher BAR Funding Limit over \$600K.

Judge Kirk then addressed the previous proposal to request an additional \$1.5 million draw down for three years out of the Fund Balance Account, to be made available to the Continuums. He noted that the Four-Year Cycle for funding has had an effect on that, but the Grant Subcommittee has discussed having an earlier round this year, in May or June, to look at next year's Interim Cycle, noting the need to make funding available at the beginning of the fiscal year in an effort to reduce the fund balance. Judge Kirk restated the need to request access to the Fund Balance Account in an amount greater than \$600K, noting that Secretary Vigil had expressed her support of these efforts. Judge Kirk stated he did not know the details of such a process, whether or not it has to go to the Legislature, but now is the time to prepare for making this request. Judge Kirk requested the Committee, in its role as an advisory committee, make a recommendation for access to drawing down funds from the Fund Balance Account in an amount greater than the \$600K currently allowed.

Judge Schneider suggested there needed to be a massive effort into determining why funds continue to be reverted and what the barriers may be, and the urgency of this matter with respect to the possibility of losing these funds in the next Legislative session. Judge Kirk explained that with government budgeting there is always the fear of over-expending the budgeted amount, so this creates a perpetual shortfall. Judge Kirk went on to explain the need for having a means of accessing these funds in place that is greater than the current draw down, and gave an example of what that would look like and how it would work.

Mr. Swisstack expressed questions about what these fund could be used for and how to help the Continuums determine other areas that funding might be requested for, such as mental health services or perhaps "wrap-around services", and the possibility of funding a facilitator to achieve this. Judge Kirk responded that these are good questions and expressed his desire to see more efforts at being proactive rather than reactive with respect to providing services to youth, and gave an example of using

local case management.

Mr. Kearney interjected that there would be an opportunity for additional comment later in the meeting under item VIII, Open Board Member Discussion.

Judge Kirk moved that JJAC make a recommendation or request that CYFD consider increasing the availability of funds from the Fund Balance Account as soon as possible. Mr. Swisstack seconded the motion. Chairman Trujillo asked if there was any further discussion. There was none. Chairman Trujillo called for the roll call vote. Motion carried unanimously.

**\*Action Item:** Approve Lifting the Limit on the Current Five Programs funded for each Continuum.

Judge Kirk reminded the Committee that a change was made a few years back limiting Continuums to five programs from the identified areas. Judge Kirk stated the Grants Subcommittee is requesting that this limitation be lifted at this time, until a point is reached where funding becomes restricted. Judge Kirk commented that there are some communities that have needs where funding could be requested above their five areas, and this might help meet local needs but could also help with expending the fund balance. Judge Kirk asked if there were any discussion. None was offered.

Chair Trujillo called for the motion. Judge Kirk moved that JJAC request of CYFD that they consider changing or eliminating the limit of funding five programs per Continuum at this time. Mr. Lovato seconded the motion. Chair Trujillo called for the roll call vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Judge Kirk reported that a number of years ago the Continuums were advised that mental health services were not deemed appropriate use of Continuum funds, which required limitations or changes within some programs offered by the Continuums. Judge Kirk requested that some clarification be provided and suggested either formation of a Subcommittee or discussions with CYFD with respect to how mental health is affecting youth today and why would there be limitations on the Continuums in building capacity in those areas of need. Judge Kirk further asked for clarification of what types of programs are available to address this need which could be approved for Continuum funding without duplicating services available from other areas or other departments or other funding that might be available. Judge Kirk suggested that this might be a topic for the Executive Subcommittee to explore or perhaps form a special Subcommittee to address this issue.

Judge Schneider commented that there is no way to pull mental health out of adverse childhood experiences, noting that trauma creates mental health issues, and that most youth today have experienced at least one of the ACEs. Judge Schneider further explained that the large majority of youth who are most at risk for coming into the juvenile justice system and those who are already in the system have suffered all of the ACEs, so she is in total agreement with this suggestion and agreed with Judge Kirk that this is part of a larger conversation and encouraged the Executive Subcommittee to undertake this discussion. Judge Schneider commented further that she believed this had been covered in the Three-Year Plan. Mr. Kearney agreed that this has been included as one of the goals in the Three-Year Plan.

Mr. Garcia commented on the need for culturally based mental health services or non-traditional mental health services, noting that science-based mental health services are not as accessible or perhaps applicable to much of the population that the Continuums serve. Mr. Garcia cautioned against isolating other opportunities for healing and the capacities of non-traditional approaches.

Mr. Lovato asked if others on the Committee were familiar with the self-funded program at NMSU with *“Anna, Age Eight”*, with Katherine Ortega-Courtney, which is doing a lot of work involving family engagement and family needs in the participating communities. Mr. Lovato shared many of the aspects that this program involves and encouraged anyone interested to develop a partnership with the *“Anna,*

*Age Eight*” program at NMSU, as they are already engaged in ten communities at this time as a community initiative. Chair Trujillo thanked Mr. Lovato for this information.

Chair Trujillo noted the common thread throughout Judge Kirk’s presentation and the subsequent discussion which goes back to Secretary Vigil’s comments, that being the need to overcome the barriers that exist to facilitating the work that needs to be done and the urgency with which this needs to be addressed before the next Legislative session. Chair Trujillo stated that this means the Executive Subcommittee will be starting to work on this very soon, and that he plans to start this work by having a meeting with Secretary Vigil for her insight and direction regarding the steps needed to get things moving to achieve better access to these funds as quickly as possible.

Chair Trujillo thanked Judge Kirk for his report.

c. Board Development Subcommittee: Sarah Gettler, Chair

Ms. Gettler thanked Chair Trujillo for all the work he has done on the By-Laws, communicating with the Governor’s Office and getting this organized. Ms. Gettler also thanked the other members of the Executive Subcommittee for their help getting the language changes made to the By-Laws for maximum clarification. Ms. Gettler stated that work on this will continue with Chair Trujillo and the Executive Subcommittee.

Ms. Gettler reported that this Subcommittee has met several times over the past two months, working on the Three-Year Plan as well as plans for training, having met with Mr. Garcia regarding Race Equity training and a recommendation for this training will be forthcoming pending receipt of additional information. Ms. Gettler stated that the Subcommittee has also been examining ACEs training, and noted that Mr. Lovato has a lot of training ideas regarding this and that she would like to extend an invitation to him to attend one of the Subcommittee meetings and give recommendations for this.

Ms. Gettler asked if there were any questions and there were none.

Chair Trujillo thanked Ms. Gettler and the Subcommittee for their work.

d. Planning & Legislative Subcommittee: Hon. Judge Angie Schneider, Chair

Judge Schneider reported that the Subcommittee continues to meet monthly and noted the great effort that was put forth by so many during the Legislative session to lobby against having funds removed from the Fund Balance Account. She thanked everyone for their efforts and was glad to hear that it sounded as though this was successful, based on Secretary Vigil’s comments.

Judge Schneider noted that a judiciary bill regarding the Office of Representation made it to the Governor’s desk and the belief is that she will sign it. This bill will create a department, akin to the Public Defender’s Department, to represent youth and families in the abuse and neglect system, which she believes is directly related to the work of JJAC. Judge Schneider explained that the hope is more quality representation will be provided to these youth and families by an organization that will provide proper training for those representing them, and that this organization will also act as a supervisory body, to potentially result in better outcomes for children and youth in the child welfare protective division in addition to the juvenile justice division.

Judge Schneider reported that several bills relative to the work of JJAC died in committee, those being; 1) the bill to abolish the possibility of life without parole for a child, 2) the bill to form a Children’s Code Reform Task Force, 3) the bill to form an ombudsman office for the Child Welfare Agency.

Judge Schneider stated that with the close of the Legislative Session this Subcommittee will now be aggressively moving forward with the meetings with the Continuums, to include the Continuum

Coordinators and hopefully two or three people from the Continuum Boards. She noted that she had received a suggestion to perhaps do this on a regional basis. She went on to explain that the hope is to conduct these meetings in an environment where the Continuum representatives are comfortable with sharing what they perceive as the barriers to getting funds expended, and their suggestions as to how to improve things. Judge Schneider noted that many of Secretary Vigil's comments aligned with what the Subcommittee is working on.

Judge Schneider shared that she had recently attended her first statewide Coordinator meeting, and that she intends to do this on a regular basis, noting how important this is and encouraging all JJAC members to do so as well. She did note, however, that the Coordinators might want to request that JJAC members leave the meeting at a certain point to allow the Coordinators a "safe space" to discuss frustrations, etc., and that perhaps they could even request that CYFD staff leave the meeting at this time, also, and how important this will be in helping identify barriers and areas that need improvement to build the process in a stronger more effective way. She also invited the Coordinators to join the Subcommittee meetings, noting that the next meeting of this Subcommittee is Tuesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> over the noon hour, and to let Mr. Kearney or Ms. Armendariz know if they would like the link to that meeting. Judge Schneider stated that these comments pertain to this Subcommittee's goals with respect to the Three-Year Plan

Judge Schneider commented that a lot of interim committees related to the 2023 Legislative session will begin meeting in August, so this Subcommittee will begin work now on recommendations to JJAC relative to those areas that will need to be addressed in the 2023 session.

Judge Schneider yielded to the Chair regarding questions.

Chair Trujillo requested representation from the Continuum Coordinators in the Executive Subcommittee discussions with regard to the funding issues for their input in preparation for meetings with Secretary Vigil to address this situation. Chair Trujillo shared that he had found his participation in the Continuum Coordinators meetings to be very insightful in this regard. Chair Trujillo asked Judge Schneider to contact the Chair of the Coordinators group to invite them to join in these meetings. Judge Schneider affirmed that she would be happy to do that.

e. System Improvement Subcommittee: Albino Garcia, Jr., Chair

Mr. Garcia reported that there had been some delays in progress toward the Racial Equity training called "Undoing Racism", but that the Board Development Subcommittee had agreed this would be good training for JJAC. Mr. Garcia noted there are two versions of this training, the full training which would require 2½ days, which could be difficult for some members, and another version called the "Appetizer", which is a one-day training, which would be the preferable version. This information will be taken to the Executive Subcommittee for recommendation as an Agenda Action Item for the next JJAC meeting.

With respect to the Internal Assessment for JJAC, Mr. Garcia stated that the Assessment Tool is being reviewed by the Subcommittee to make it more relevant and less time-consuming, and this will be presented to the Executive Subcommittee for approval to be presented to the entire JJAC membership. Mr. Garcia commented that he had made the suggestion that the Executive Subcommittee and Staff members be the first to participate in the self-assessment and then the assessment would be made available to the rest of the JJAC members.

Mr. Garcia then addressed the efforts to obtain real-time data regarding youth currently detained under the auspices of JJAC, to include data concerning race, demographics, gender, etc., as a part of the Race Equity work.

Mr. Garcia also reported that the Subcommittee is still working on the Inspection Request for site visits in order to make independent assessments with respect to System Improvement, noting that this has been delayed due to many facilities still being closed to inspection as a result of COVID.

Mr. Garcia then asked for questions regarding this report.

Chair Trujillo thanked Mr. Garcia and his Subcommittee for their work. There were no questions for Mr. Garcia.

#### **VIII. Open Board Member Discussion**

Ms. Stevens shared that she is certified in Mental Health First-Aid, along with 10 others throughout the State, and they are available to do this training for the Continuums, either virtual or in-person, and asked that they be utilized as a resource

Ms. Stevens also mentioned a number of organizations are also developing a transformative justice curriculum experience for young people, which is being done in Bernalillo County/Albuquerque, which is a stipend opportunity for young people. Ms. Stevens noted that participants will learn about transformative justice and can do either an art component or a writing component as part of this. Ms. Stevens offered to email this information out to the rest of the Committee. She also noted that the Peace and Justice Center is developing a restorative justice center where young people will be trained in restorative justice in partnership with the District Attorney's Office.

Judge Schneider commented that this was a lot of amazing information shared by Ms. Stevens and asked Ms. Stevens to get this information to Mr. Kearney for dissemination to the Continuum Coordinators and the rest of the Committee members. Ms. Stevens responded that she would certainly do this.

Mr. Garcia shared that there was a meeting of the Albuquerque Youth Justice Collaborative the previous evening which involved 25 organizations and 25 system impacted children and families, where an extensive report of the first year activities for this organization was presented. Mr. Garcia noted that this organization was funded by an Annie E. Casey Foundation grant and gave some detail regarding the participating organizations. Mr. Garcia expressed his belief that a presentation by members of this collaborative would be very beneficial for JJAC and recommended that this be put on a future JJAC Agenda. Mr. Garcia asked Ms. Stevens to share her insights regarding this work as she is participating with this collaborative.

Ms. Stevens commented that the presentation last evening was very powerful, which included system impacted youth who reflected about their journey, and ways they have received support within their communities, as well as why they are involved and wanting to create a better system which will better serve young people. Ms. Stevens gave additional details about how this collaborative is functioning. Ms. Stevens agreed that a presentation by the collaborative would be very beneficial for JJAC.

Mr. Garcia commented that the community they are working with is still very concerned about the abuse at Camino Nuevo, and still would like to know what is happening with the youth involved and how they are being helped, as well as other aspects pertaining to this issue.

Chair Trujillo asked if there are regularly scheduled meetings of the Albuquerque Youth Justice Collaborative and asked if he could attend a meeting. Mr. Garcia replied that the meetings are by invitation only at this time, so he would have to present this request to the Collaborative, and they would make a decision. Mr. Garcia noted that Secretary Vigil did attend their November meeting. Mr. Garcia commented that he thought Chair Trujillo attending a Collaborative meeting would be very beneficial. He did note that these meetings occur once a week and are 3½-4 hours long. Mr. Garcia

stated he would be happy to recommend an invitation to Chair Trujillo. Chair Trujillo responded that he was mostly interested in attending to be able to listen to the reports of the work being done. Chair Trujillo thanked Mr. Garcia.

Bridgette Jones, Otero County Continuum Coordinator, thanked the Chair for the opportunity to speak. She expressed the hope that with future discussions regarding funding there would be more opportunities for things such as capacity building, noting that a lot of the evidence-based programs have requirements for specific training and the cost of that training is not covered through the funding, and that funding for this would be very helpful for small communities to build up their programs. Ms. Jones also referred to Secretary Vigil's comments about trusting the communities more, and the possibility of coming up with innovative, grassroots, creative ideas on dealing with specific issues. Ms. Jones then asked how programs become "evidence based", commenting that they most likely started as a grassroots type of program. Ms. Jones noted the benefit of opening up some restrictions and allowing funding to be used in this way, bringing people together in the community and building solutions, all of the things Secretary Vigil mentioned.

Chair Trujillo expressed his agreement with Ms. Jones' comments and reiterated Secretary Vigil's comments about "thinking outside the box", in particular with respect to funding for training at the local level for needed programs and that this is a priority in his thinking.

#### **IX. Continuum Coordinator Update: Carmela Romero, Coordinator, Bernalillo County**

Ms. Romero reported that some members of the Continuum Leadership Team met with Judge Schneider and Judge Kirk over a weekend to discuss some of the talking points that were sent out to the Legislative Finance Committee and the Continuum leaders were very pleased to be part of that process and provider input. Ms. Romero commented that it was good to hear that nothing has happened with the Fund Balance Account at this time and the Continuums are working to move forward and spend down their funds.

Ms. Romero noted that the Leadership Team has been mentoring new Coordinators.

With regard to Judge Schneider's suggestion that the Coordinators meet on their own without JJAC members or staff in attendance Ms. Romero stated that the Coordinators do meet this way every other month.

Ms. Romero expressed thanks for the JJAC members who do attend their meetings, where they learn about the local programs, and that most recently the Luna/Hidalgo County Continuum had provided a presentation on their programs, including Strengthening Families, their Surveillance program and some of their gender responsive programs. She shared how it is beneficial to see the work that is ongoing with photos and how the programs are working and be given the opportunity to ask questions. Ms. Romero encouraged participation/attendance at these meetings as there is much to learn about the work at the different sites through the Continuum presentations.

Ms. Romero shared that there is training held from time to time for Continuum Coordinators and there is an upcoming Mental Health First-Aid for Youth type of training through Judy Baca.

Ms. Romero reported that there have been some new Coordinators come on board so the Leadership Team is meeting with them to help get them up to speed on different issues as well as getting to know the Coordinator group and be able to share what they are experiencing in the Coordinator meetings.

Chair Trujillo repeated his comments in terms of Coordinators attending the Executive Subcommittee meetings in order to start planning discussions with Secretary Vigil in terms of the restrictive issues with respect to making funding available.

Judge Schneider thanked Ms. Romero for the group of Coordinators that met with the Legislative Subcommittee in terms of the funding lobby effort and that their contribution to this was huge.

Chair Trujillo expressed how much he enjoyed the presentations by the Continuums at the Coordinator meetings he has attended and encouraged other JJAC members to attend these meetings.

Mr. Garcia asked if a cohort of organizations could apply for funding as opposed to individual organizations applying. Judge Kirk responded that the contracts from CYFD are required to go through a government agent, either a city or a county, explaining that the local Continuums contract with these entities for this purpose. Mr. Kearney added that this would be something to pursue with the local Continuum Coordinator in terms of whether they would entertain a proposal from a collaborative for funding, which would then be managed through a fiscal agency for a collaborative. Mr. Kearney stated that any change of State JJAC funding going to local units of government or tribal governments would require a change in the statute. Mr. Garcia remarked about the possibility of learning more about a change in the statute and Mr. Kearney responded that this could be explored.

**X. Public Comment**

Chair Trujillo asked if there were any public comment. There was none.

**XI. Adjournment**

Chair Trujillo entertained the motion to adjourn. Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Swisstack, seconded by Ms. Gettler.

Chair Trujillo thanked the JJAC members for their time, noting that today's meeting was long, but fruitful. He also thanked all the guests and Coordinators for their attendance. He thanked the CYFD Staff for all of their hard work.

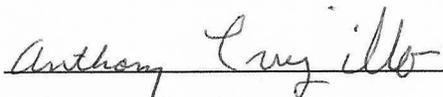
Roll call vote was taken, motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:33 p.m.

**The next proposed meeting to be held on Thursday, April 21, 2022**

**10 a.m. – 1 p.m., via ZOOM**

Minutes Approved on 2/17/2022:

  
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Anthony Trujillo, Chair