

MINUTES OF THE
SANTA FE COUNTY
CORRECTIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

November 13, 2014

Santa Fe, New Mexico

This meeting of the Santa Fe County Corrections Advisory Committee was called to order by Chair Frank Susman at approximately 3:05 p.m. on the above-cited date at the Youth Development Facility, 4250 Airport Road, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

The following individuals were present:

Members Present:

Frank Susman, Legal Community
Dale Lettenberger, Law Enforcement - Investigative Bureau
Adan Mendoza, Law Enforcement
Steve S. Spencer, Medical Community/Substance Abuse
Michelle George, Juvenile Justice

Member(s) Excused:

Mary Ellen Gonzales, Restorative Justice
Maria Jose Rodriguez Cadiz, Mental Health Community
Maria Cristina Lopez, Immigrant Advocacy Community
Ben Baur, Public Defender's Office

Staff Present:

Mark Caldwell, Acting Warden
Aaron Garcia, Corrections
Tila Rendon-Varela, Staff Liaison
Ardis Thomas, Corrections
Stacey Byard, Corrections

II. Introductions

Those present introduced themselves. Chairman Susman distributed an updated roster of the committee. *[Exhibit 1]*

- III. Approval of Agenda**
- IV. Minutes: September 11, 2014**

These items were deferred in the absence of a quorum

- V. Monthly/Quarterly Focus on Employment Wrap-Around Services**
 - A. Employment Wrap-Around Services – What Resources are Used; Who's out There; Hurdles**
- VI. Action Plan for Accomplishing Tasks Set Forth in Resolution No. 2012-140**

Stacey Byard, Reintegration Specialist, stated there had been a request for a breakdown in the length of stay of the inmates. She noted 71.74 percent of the inmate population is in the facility for ten days or less. 12.5 percent stay 10 to 30 days; 6.9 percent are in for 31 to 60 days. 6.2 percent are in between 61 and 180 days; 2.15 percent stay 180 and 365 days; and .37 percent are there for a year or longer.

Chairman Susman asked what can be accomplished in ten days or under. Ms. Byard said much depends on whether the stay includes weekends. In many cases they're in withdrawal during the initial period. Capt. Mendoza asked if support staff was available on weekends. Ms. Byard said emergency services are on call but many services are not available, for instance public defenders and the DA's office.

Capt. Mendoza pointed out that inmates must be charged within ten days or the charges are dismissed. Ms. Byard said that is true, and many of the early releases bond out. Those facing competency hearings tend to be in for a long time.

Responding to another request from the committee Ms. Byard provided a list of agencies providing employment services. [Exhibit 2] Some are in Albuquerque. State and federal entities are not allowed to ask about felony convictions on applications, although it can be broached at the interview stage. Inmates are given this list upon release, along with information on rehab, etc.

Chairman Susman speculated that those charged with misdemeanors are more employable than those charged with felonies.

Ms. George asked if the Community College provided help in services such as résumé building. Ms. Byard said she would look into that.

Dr. Spencer asked about placement numbers. Ms. Byard said she did not have specific employment statistics.

Chairman Susman suggested getting letters of recommendation from the employers recounting positive experiences that might help. Ms. Byard said the information she has received from inmates is anecdotal and there are approximately 50 employers that have been mentioned. Employers won't say they discriminate against ex-offenders. Some groups are vocal about hiring such as Goodwill.

Other suggestions included having the BCC pass a resolution of support and encouraging hiring, identifying companies that have helped in the past, and doing an inmate survey.

Dr. Spencer mentioned sending a letter to the BCC from the committee on this point.

Ms. Byard said employment consists of day labor, janitorial, trades, retail, and fast food. Increasing awareness is important.

Ardis Thomas stated she has been attending EDGE classes where Survey Monkey, a free internet service, is used. This could be utilized for employers.

Ms. George suggested making use of the Chamber of Commerce and Chairman Susman volunteered to pursue that. He speculated it could be disseminated through the Chamber's newsletter. Dr. Spencer lamented that there was little press coverage of the committee's activities.

Capt. Mendoza offered to work with the County's public information officer. Warden Caldwell endorsed that idea since the press tended to cover only negative stories.

Warden Caldwell noted there are some ex-offenders with skills, including electricians and plumbers.

Capt. Mendoza noted that any employers in line for recognition should be consulted first. Ms. Byard pointed out that tax incentives are available and this should be publicized.

As far as hurdles, Ms. Byard mentioned lack of awareness and a need for volunteers to help with preparation for employment. A further hurdle is that people are occasionally fired upon incarceration and can lose their jobs even without a conviction.

V. B. CQI Report through September (if available)

Ms. Thomas said she would email the report. This report does not contain re-entry information but the next quarter's will.

VII. Update on "The Alliance"

There was no present to provide an update.

VIII. Matters from Staff

Warden Caldwell commended Ms. Byard and Ms. Thomas for their work. He added the facilities are in capable hands pending appointment of a new warden.

Aaron Garcia spoke of an article in *World Literature Today* that outlined activities at the Youth Development Program. [Exhibit 3] Dr. Spencer said it is a positive reflection on what is occurring. Mr. Garcia said a poetry seminar and food drive are planned.

Ms. Byard stated 100 people have been enrolled in Medicaid and 25 Narcan kits issued.

Ms. Thomas encouraged the committee to invite Renee Fernandez, Program Manager to a meeting to talk about volunteers.

IX. Matters from the Committee

Chairman Susman asked if there had been a final report on the death that occurred at the detention facility. Warden Caldwell said he thought the investigation was ongoing.

Dr. Spencer asked Ms. Byard if she needed additional help in her department. She said they could always use more people but currently they have excellent case managers.

X. Matters from the Public

None were offered.

XI. Suggested Items for Next Meeting

A discussion occurred regarding which of the areas of concern to focus on next. There will be follow-up on employment and the issue of housing could be undertaken. Ms. Byard suggested inviting someone from the Housing Authority.

Chairman Susman asked how many inmates have no housing to go to upon release. Ms. Byard said that depends on the definition of housing, which varies. Some public housing will not take ex-felons and give priority to those who are already working. Warden Caldwell said chronic offenders and those with mental illness are the biggest problem. "There's no place to take them."

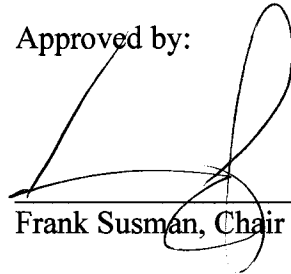
Chairman Susman said he would report back from his overtures to the Chamber of Commerce.

The next meeting was scheduled for January 8, 2015 at the juvenile facility from 3:00 to 5:00.

XII. Adjournment

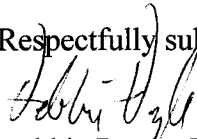
This meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:55 p.m.

Approved by:



Frank Susman, Chair

Respectfully submitted by:



Debbie Doyle, Wordswork

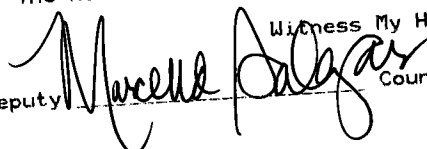


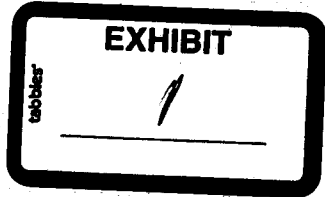
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Deputy 



SANTA FE COUNTY CORRECTIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE ROSTER

<u>Member</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Mail Address</u>	<u>Phone(s)</u>	<u>E-mail</u>	<u>Term</u>
Bennett J. Baur	Public Defender	301 N. Guadalupe 87501	476-0773	bennettj.baur@lopdnm.us	2 years
Michelle George	At large	<i>Camino de</i> 814 Commode Monte Rey 87505	690-6280	shelly_michelle@msn.com	2 years
Mary Ellen Gonzales	Homeless Advocacy	2806 Calle Campeon 87505	438-6265 310-2791	maryellengonzales@gmail.com	3 years
Deputy Chief Dale G. Lettenberger	Santa Fe Police Dept.			dglettenberger@santafenm.gov	3 years
Maria Cristina Lopez	Immigrant Advocacy	1614 Ben Hur Dr. Dr. 87501	988-1970	mclv2sf@gmail.com	2 years
Capt. Adan Mendoza	Sheriff Dept.	113 Pine West 87508	986-2478 231-0118	amendoza@co.santa-fe.nm.us	3 years
Maria José Rodriguez-Cádiz (Vice Chair)	Mental Health	6601 Valentine Way 87507	988-1951 690-2388	mjrodcadiz@findsolace.org	3 years
Dr. Steven Spencer	Medical Subst. Abuse	640 Alta Vista, Apt. 314 87505	984-2217 660-6978	stevenspencermd@gmail.com	2 years
Frank Susman (Chair)	Legal	1001 Calle Dorthia 87506	984-3012 603-8213	lcsusman@comcast.net	2 years
Pablo Sedillo	<i>Ex Officio</i>		992-3080	psedillo@co.santa-fe.nm.us	
Tila Rendon-Varela	Santa Fe Co. Dept. Public Safety		992-3080	trendon@santa-fecountynm.gov	

Tila Rendon-Varela



From: Stacey Byard
Sent: Monday, October 27, 2014 8:48 AM
To: Tila Rendon-Varela
Subject: Job Resource List for C.A.C
Attachments: Job Resources.xlsx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hi Tila,
At the last CAC meeting, the council members requested the resources we currently have for helping offenders find employment. I've attached the list to this email. I'm not sure if they wanted it prior to the next meeting, but I wanted to ensure you had it.
Thanks!
-Stacey

Stacey Byard
Re-Entry Specialist
Santa Fe County Adult Detention Facility
Ph: 505-428-3880
Fax: 505-428-3885

2014 OCT 27 10:00 AM

Albuquerque Job Corps	1500 Indian School Road	346-2562	16-24	Free	Education, vocational training, room and board, medical and dental, clothing allowance and job placement. Substance Abuse counseling.
NM Dept of Workforce Solutions	301 W Devargas-Santa Fe	827-7434	Adults	Free	Helps with job searches, resume building, and other assistance
NM Dept of Workforce Solutions	401 Broadway Blvd- ABQ	841-8409	Adults	Free	Helps with job searches, resume building, and other assistance
Dept of Vocational Rehabilitation	Camino Edward Ortiz- Santa Fe	827-3526	Adults w/disabilities	Free	Helps with job training and resources for those with a disability.
Interfaith Community Shelter	Santa Fe	795-7494	Adults	Free	Enrichment Center which helps with job searching, resume writing, interview skills etc
Career Works (UNM)	ABQ-UNM	277-3075	Adults	Free	Work seeking services, resume assistance, money management classes
Joy Junction	Albuquerque	877-6967	Adults and families	Free	Life recovery program- faith based. No detox or medical care
Catholic Charities	1410 Coal- ABQ	247-9521	Adults	Free	Employment programs for those who are enrolled in housing programs.
Goodwill Industries	610 Gold ST- ABQ	881-6401	Adults	Free	Helps people overcome barriers to employment by providing job training. Assist felons in finding employment and/or hire them
Labor Systems	2717 2nd- ABQ	344-4404	Adults	Free	Day Labor service that hires felons.
Labor Ready	5815 Lomas NE- ABQ	256-5148	Adults	Free	Day Labor service that hires felons.
St. Martin's	1201 3rd St- ABQ	764-8231	Adults	Free	Employment resource room and job development specialist who assists individuals with the entire employment process.

Community Options Inc	811 St. Michael's Dr Ste 206	989-1471	Adults	Free	Helps people with special needs such as mental disabilities find jobs and residential services.
Santa Fe County	949 West Alameda ST	992-9880	Adults		Public Employers are no longer allowed to ask about convictions on initial employment applications
City of Santa Fe	200 Lincoln Ave	955-6602	Adults		Public Employers are no longer allowed to ask about convictions on initial employment applications
NM State Personnel Office	2600 Cerrillos RD	476-7759	Adults		Public Employers are no longer allowed to ask about convictions on initial employment applications

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FROM THE ROAD

The Home of Hope: Biblioteca Amigos Library

October 29, 2014 Marilyse Figueroa



For more on Santa Fe's Biblioteca Amigos Library, read Figueroa's outpost featuring this bilingual literary hub in the November 2014 issue of *World Literature Today*.

I have read *Fahrenheit 451* enough times to know that libraries are one institution that should never be eliminated from a society. Public libraries are hubs of social work. This environment of free and abundant education cannot be anything but an activist agency. For instance, when I see the calendar of my own library offering SAT tutoring, computer classes, and social gatherings, I am imbued with the sense that there is much more going on at libraries than computer games and the shuffling of books. With my already-fervent appreciation of libraries, I was thrilled at the opportunity to get to know the librarians of Biblioteca Amigos Library in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

After Taub had already been contacted by the Santa Fe County

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Corrections advisory committee to expand the library at the Youth Development Center, Martínez joined the project because of her passion for activism and literature.

Mara Taub and Demetria Martínez are not librarians every day of their lives, but in order for this library to succeed, they had to embody many personas at once. A longtime Coalition for Prisoners' Rights leader, Taub's home in Santa Fe is the coalition's headquarters. A picture of her home appears on its newsletters, along with an inscription: "Despite what everyone envisions as the Coalition, this is our humble home, Hopeland." Martínez found herself in Hopeland in March when the project began. After Taub had already been contacted by the Santa Fe County Corrections advisory committee to expand the library at the Youth Development Center, Martínez joined the project because of her passion for activism and literature. Though they both knew of each other from Santa Fe's oddly small-town feel, neither of them had known the other before the project. "I found the spoons right away," Martínez said. "This place felt like home." Taub and Martínez found a richly compatible energy. Inspired, they worked off of each other's genuine enthusiasm to make the residents' lives better.

This synergy yielded unique results. The library would not have come about in the same way had they not been brought together. Taub was used to sending prisoners her newsletter, and many of them were also sent dictionaries at no cost. When Martínez joined the project, they brainstormed the idea of revamping the YDC library. Speaking to Martínez, Taub said, "You looked at me like I'd offered you a Christmas tree and a birthday cake." With their commitments solidified, they began working each week to make the library a place for the residents again.

A new library was going to mean many things for the YDC residents, but Taub and Martínez most wished that it would be the chance to give the residents another outlook on their time there. Often times, the prison system emphasizes "reforming" incarcerated persons, and the volunteers did not believe that reform could help these young adults once they left the YDC. Instead, Biblioteca Amigos Library sends a completely different message, which focuses on nurturing and caring for the residents.

For months, the quasi-librarians culled the old books. They wanted to get rid of the ones falling apart and others that were not going to appeal to the residents. Then one day, a friend said, "I have all these books from my high school years that I want to give away." That was the beginning of their donations. "We have a library with no acquisitions, no check-out policies, and no number control. We just do it and then it works," Taub said. Their donations have grown to fill all the shelves of the library, but there is still room for more. The volunteers are excited to switch out the books and to offer ones according to themes and holidays.

The small room that houses YDC's library is shared with a basketball court. The multifunctionality of the room is a perfect setting for the future events that will come from this library and its steadfast volunteers. Taub and Martínez have already brought in speakers to talk to the residents about addiction, college, and planning for their futures when they are released. Other days, nothing but fun is up for discussion. A few future events are going to include visits from a film professional and a soccer player. Many outside volunteers want to offer the residents opportunities to get involved in writing workshops, sports, and career research. The new attention to the YDC always points to the library. It was as if the new work being put into the library aroused an interest in others to share their time with residents. Even the events hosted by the

FRIDAY LIT LINKS



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Maaza Mengiste. Photo by Shevaun Williams News, Reviews, and Interviews Maaza Mengiste spoke with Mantle...

November 7, 2014 | Kaitlin Hawkins

TRANSLATION TUESDAY



November's New Translations

All Days are Night by Peter Stamm Translated by Michael Hofmann. Other Press. After a car crash that leaves her

husband dead and her own...

November 4, 2014 | Chelsea Greer

FRIDAY LIT LINKS



The Neustadt Festival, Halloween literary treats, and more

Mia Couto receiving the Neustadt feather. Photo by Vanessa Rudloff. Thank you to all of our readers who supported the 2014 Neustadt Festival last...

October 31, 2014 | Kaitlin Hawkins

FROM THE ROAD



The Home of Hope: Biblioteca Amigos Library

For more on Santa Fe's Biblioteca Amigos Library, read

Figueroa's outpost featuring this bilingual literary hub in the November 2014 issue of ...

October 29, 2014 | Marilyse Figueroa

TRANSLATION TUESDAY



Like Rain That Falls: 10 Truisms of Translation

Photo by Marsha Brockman/Flickr To say literary

translation is to commit a pleonasm. All translation is intrinsically literary, in the same way...

October 28, 2014 | Andrés Ehrenhaus

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library are inspired by something that everyone can share and take home with them, the insights books hold for us.

Martínez told me a story about one of the young women staying at YDC. She had been in before and was able to read Stephenie Meyer's *Twilight*. While this young-adult novel does not appear in the literature section of bookstores, and regardless of its scholarly status, the book had an astounding effect on her. The woman said she had been extremely depressed, but by reading this book she was able to work through her sadness. Martínez assured her that they would scour their donations for more books like Meyer's.

Some of the books in the library are about serious subject matters such as abuse, poverty, and loneliness. One might argue Taub and Martínez would have been wise to stay on the positive side of literature. However, their move to include more mature works is another attribute of their combined genius. While books that ignite the imagination are in abundance, there are also books that will captivate the residents with characters similar to themselves.

Embracing the various backgrounds of the YDC residents, Taub and Martínez hope that their library will be more than a place of quiet escape.

The library is conscious of the residents' culture: most speak Spanish and feel at home in this language. The bilingual section even has works of literature translated from languages other than English, such as the story "Todos Somos Uno," which is a Chinese folktale that has been translated into Spanish. Embracing the various backgrounds of the YDC residents, Taub and Martínez hope that their library will be more than a place of quiet escape. They are thrilled to see the residents taking books with them, knowing that it is appropriate. "It's a source of inspiration to see these young people walk in, interacting and combing through the books," Taub said. If the volunteers could have found a way to remember every moment, I believe they would have. They are inspired to work for the residents, and the library gave them the opportunity to hear what the residents need. "As they say in Santa Fe," Taub said, "It was meant."

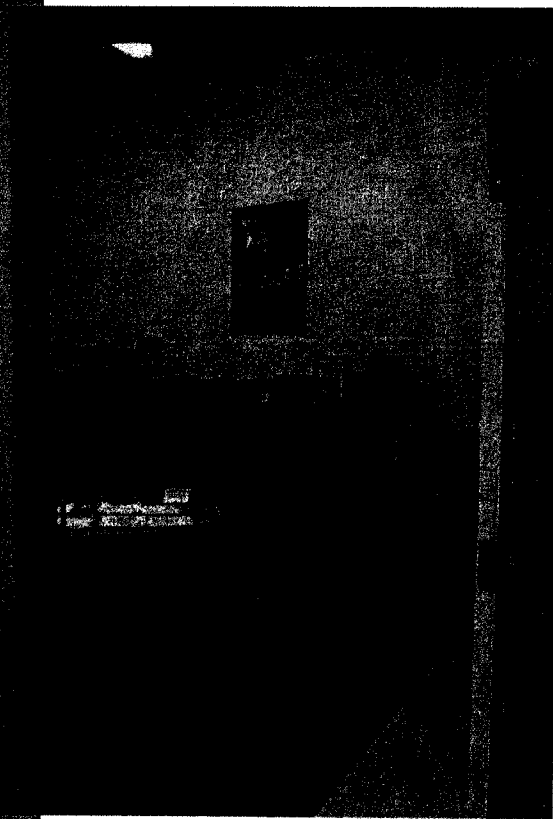
At its most perfect embodiment, a library should be "a place of free speech, community, and controversy," said Paula Poundstone, an Emmy Award-winning comedian and spokesperson for United for Libraries. Librarians are not prim and passive, as the stereotype suggests. They merge literature and activism in everything they do. This freedom is essential to our understanding of what a library is. Even when certain civil liberties are taken away, the liberty to read should never be tampered with. Biblioteca Amigos Library reflects this vision. It is politically charged, it offers more than books, and it welcomes all. In fact, this library has a lot of Hopeland in it: it's small and confined, but it transforms itself when the right hands are on it. In this space, the humble home of new hope has begun.

TAGS: Santa Fe Library Bilingual Activism Literature Books Spanish English

A recent graduate of the University of Oklahoma and former WLT intern, **Marilyse Figueroa** now lives in and writes from San Antonio, Texas.

Santa Fe's Biblioteca Amigos Library

Marilyse Figueroa



Visit the *WLT* website to view additional photos and to read Marilyse's blog post about literature and activism.

Five minutes away from Santa Fe's historic downtown, a wooden cart goes in and out of the Youth Development Center. It has been loaded and unloaded, dragged and pushed, narrowly avoiding throwing off the precious words stacked on top of it. The rickety wooden cart has been the second-most essential commodity for Mara Taub and Demetria Martínez. The first ones were books.

Taub, a prisoners' rights activist, and Martínez, an activist and writer, were contacted by Santa Fe County Corrections advisory committee to come into the youth detention center as volunteers. "All we wanted to do was give extra dictionaries," Taub explained. She has sent hundreds of copies of dictionaries to residents over the years. However, when Martínez visited Taub's home, the idea to put new books into the library came to each of them. "I think I've always had a frustrated librarian in me. I got so excited at the prospect," Martínez said. They both realized this library needed more than dictionaries. They believed the library should be a haven for the inmates. A young man at the center affirmed their dream by saying he "reads books to escape."

When they arrived, the library was more a closet for books than a vessel for them. The books were unreadable: some had torn covers; many were missing pages. With the support of the staff, especially Aaron Garcia and Renee Hernandez, no one saw a mess; instead, they saw an opportunity to bring new life into the library.

After four months of dedicated work, the Biblioteca Amigos Library was ready to open in July. The honored guests were the young residents themselves. Guest speakers Pablo Kelly and Blanca Ortiz spoke about the power of words and how books can change lives. Martínez read poems



DEMETRIA MARTÍNEZ (left)
AND MARA TAUB

written at the center's poetry workshop. A poem called "Trapped" thickly coated the room in silence; another, "Joy," was like a ladder to the sun.

After the ceremony, the residents investigated the library. On the door was the sign *Biblioteca*, Spanish for library. "We didn't ask," Martínez said. "We just put it up." By adding a bilingual atmosphere, the volunteers hoped the library would feel welcoming to young men and women who have *frontera*/borderland identities. *The House on Mango Street*, *Bless Me, Última*, and many other recognizable works of Latin American literature were available. The inmates looked through a new fantasy and science-fiction section, young-adult novels, and the volunteers' favorite section, Spanish-language and bilingual books.

The residents browsed and made their final selections. A young woman went straight to the outdoor enclosed area, sat underneath a panel of sunlight, and began reading her new book immediately. "Sometimes what we do isn't so visible," Taub said, "but to see these young people walk out with armloads . . . I could've wept." For the young men and women here, this may be just a place they pass through. However, Taub and Martínez want them to leave with some hope and, of course, with an armful of books.

Marilyse Figueroa is a former *WLT* intern. She currently lives in San Antonio, Texas.