

**MINUTES OF THE**  
**SANTA FE COUNTY**  
**CORRECTIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**February 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 3:07 p.m. on the above-cited date at the Youth Development Center, 4250 Airport Road, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

**Members Present:**

Frank Susman, Legal Community  
Mary Ellen Gonzales, Restorative Justice  
Dale Lettenberger, Law Enforcement - Investigative Bureau  
Maria Cristina Lopez, Immigrant Advocacy Community  
Adan Mendoza, Law Enforcement  
Maria Jose Rodriguez Cadiz, Mental Health Community  
Steve S. Spencer, Medical Community/Substance Abuse  
Judy Williams, Community at-large

**Member(s) Excused:**

Joan Morales, Public Defender's Office  
Michelle George, Juvenile Justice

**Staff Present:**

Pablo Sedillo, County Public Safety Director  
Mark Gallegos, Santa Fe County Warden  
Tila Rendon-Varela, Department Administrator, Public Safety Department  
Mark Caldwell, Santa Fe County Deputy Warden  
Steve Shepherd, Financial Manager  
Renee Fernandez, Program Manager

**Others Present:**

Mara Taub

In the initial absence of a quorum, Chairman Susman asked whether the committee would prefer to meet every other month.

### **III. Approval of Minutes**

There was discussion of the inconsistency in receiving copies of the minutes and agendas by email. Ms. Rendon-Varela said she would work on that in the future. Chairman Susman asked that any further comments should be forwarded to him.

Dr. Spencer moved to approve the January meeting minutes and Ms. Gonzales second. The motion carried unanimously.

### **IV. A. Report to the Board of County Commissioners**

Chairman Susman recapped his report to the BCC comprising statistics on the jail and committee consensus observations on the operations, specifically that the detention centers are not the most effective or efficient way to deal with behavioral health issues and that more outpatient facilities are needed in the community. He noted one issue seized upon by the Commission was the refusal by the hospital to admit patients on electronic monitoring. He noted many of the issues are beyond the control of the staff.

Ms. Williams stated she did not agree there was nothing that could be done to improve operations, and Chairman Susman reiterated there were not many issues. Regarding the hospital, Ms. Williams noted there is talk of closing the psych ward and the sobering center. She found it odd that the Commission focused on the length of stay being too long.

Mr. Sedillo indicated the hospital has an internal policy regarding patients on electronic monitoring but have said they will revisit this and a meeting is planned. He stated the ER has to accept everyone. He pointed out that any closures would deeply affect jail operations. A new psychologist, Merritt Ayad, has been hired who has ties to the state psychiatric hospital. Mr. Sedillo said they are moving in the direction of professional screening for mental health issues.

Warden Gallegos recounted an incident where an inmate was sent to St. Vincent's by court order for an assessment. Instead of notifying the jail when the assessment was completed the hospital released the inmate. They are working to address such glitches. Cpt. Mendoza said the situation is complicated. Mr. Sedillo emphasized the lines of communication are open and he will report back the results of the next meeting.

The committee asked to be able to meet with the new psychologist once he is established, and Dr. Spencer reiterated his desire to hear from Ms. Leiding regarding medical matters at the jail.

### **IV. B. Budget Report**

Steve Shepherd gave a breakdown of the revenue sources available to the Corrections Department, including charges for services – transporting inmates and housing inmates from other jurisdictions; a small amount of state funds from the Administrative Office of the Courts for probation and parole inmates; and a small federal grant from the USDA. The greatest portions come from the general fund and a 1/8 gross receipts tax.

Ms. Williams said in discussions of the Senate Finance Committee regarding how to fund the \$9 million sole community hospital funding gap there is talk of taking \$2.5 million from the

DWI fund and \$3.3 million from the jails. Mr. Shepherd speculated they were speaking of probation and parole monies that would be a hit of around \$220,000 to the County. Mr. Sedillo said it was possible \$450,000 could be taken from Corrections.

Ms. Williams gave a recap of developments at the legislature in healthcare funding with an emphasis on possible impacts to the community-based organizations.

Ms. Lopez asked to see a more comprehensive breakdown of jail revenues and expenses. Mr. Sedillo pointed out that of the 550 inmates 330 are from Santa Fe County and for whom the County is completely responsible. The other 220 are from other jurisdictions who help subsidize the operations. He said he would work with Mr. Shepherd on a more comprehensive breakdown.

Referring to a discussion at the previous meeting, Ms. Williams asked what procedures are in place when a major event occurs, such as a death at the jail. Warden Gallegos said protocols are in place and there is an internal investigation team and the Sheriff's Department is called in to do a parallel investigation. The internal investigation checks to see that policies were followed. In seven days an after-action or corrective action plan is devised. Everyone involved gives feedback. Recommendations follows that could include policy revisions or changes in training. The Sheriff's Department provides additional input. Disciplinary problems are sometimes involved.

Chairman Susman asked if those involved were also interviewed individually as well as collectively. Warden Gallegos said they were, and department heads are debriefed.

Ms. Williams said she was not prepared to give an update on the It Takes a Village project in Ms. Morales' absence but understood the group was working on a document. Cpt. Mendoza indicated they were working on case studies which will be narrowed down and a plan arrived at. He added there is good participation from the judiciary. Capt. Lettenberger said the next meeting will be February 24<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Williams stated funding remains an issue. Project LEAD serves as a model. Dr. Spencer expressed his hope that it succeeds and Ms. Gonzales added it is a valuable program.

Ms. Williams noted the County is planning on hiring a new person in Corrections to coordinate post-incarceration services. She said it would be valuable for this committee to meet with that person for networking. Warden Gallegos said the job is full-time and pays around \$24/hour. It will also entail seeking funding sources. Mr. Sedillo said there would be case management and Medicaid enrollment. Warden Gallegos said it will provide data and provide a smooth hand-off of inmates to the community.

#### **V. Matters from the Public: Books**

Mara Taub from the Coalition for Prisoners Rights and Los Amigos del Parque asked if the jail library needed more books and she offered the help of donor in the Bay Area that provides paperback dictionaries for the inmates to keep. Ms. Fernandez said she would liaise with Ms. Taub.

## **VI. Comments by Members: Other Tasks for the Committee**

Ms. Rodriguez Cadiz stated she can continue to give updates on sexual assault services at the jail. She spoke of current pilot projects and the LEAD program, which is about to start. She detailed work on the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA).

Chairman Susman asked what would happen if a pregnant inmate requested an abortion. Warden Gallegos said that would go through the medical department.

Ms. Rodriguez Cadiz spoke of the LEAD model's work in Seattle with drug abuse.

Mr. Sedillo indicated he attended an American Corrections Association conference the previous week and PREA was a big topic. DOJ mandates that every juvenile facility has to be PREA-certified and an audit conducted this year. There are 182 standards that have to be complied with and not enough auditors in the country to do all the work. Some administrators are reluctant to take on the task due to factors like lack of cameras in the facilities and general problems in the physical plant. However, there is DOJ funding for cameras.

Ms. Rodriguez Cadiz outlined what is happening in the field of rape prevention and commended the jail for hiring Ms. Leiding, who has experience in rape counseling. She expressed pride in the jail's team and efforts in this area.

Ms. Williams asked that the committee concentrate on improving connections to the community and its services. The HPPC is working on an Action Plan which includes five or six key areas. She asked for data from the Department on pregnant women in jail and prenatal care. Warden Gallegos said they track that.

Ms. Lopez asked about demographics that have been provided. She is specifically interested in ethnicity. Chairman Susman said that should be in the monthly CQI reports. Ms. Lopez said it's hard to elucidate the number of Hispanics.

Dr. Spencer said he is impressed with the interest expressed in bridging the gap between the jail and the community. He sits on the advisory board of COCHS (Community Oriented Correctional Health Services), an organization at one time interested in using Santa Fe County as a demonstration site, however, they were charging a fee of \$10,000. The organization has since changed and he would like to report the jail's progress in the area of community orientation programs, such as It Takes a Village.

Mr. Sedillo said they strive to improve quality of life for the prisoners and the County Manager and BCC is cognizant of that effort. It takes three to five years to change a culture. Warden Gallegos noted that before taking on his job he insisted on a focus on the behavioral health aspect. There are now seven therapists and case managers.

## **VII. Schedule Next Meeting**

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for March 13, 2014.

**VIII. Adjournment**

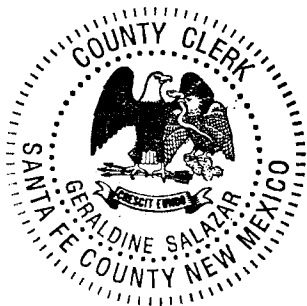
This meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:45 p.m.

Approved by:

  
Frank Susman, Chair

Respectfully submitted by:

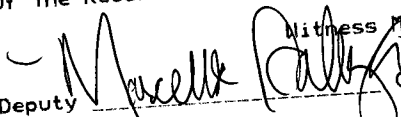
Debbie Doyle, Wordswork



COUNTY OF SANTA FE )  
STATE OF NEW MEXICO ) ss

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I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for  
Record On The 18TH Day Of March, 2014 at 11:58:55 AM  
And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 1732286  
Of The Records Of Santa Fe County

  
Deputy \_\_\_\_\_ Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office  
Geraldine Salazar  
County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM