

MINUTES OF THE
SANTA FE COUNTY
CORRECTIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

April 17, 2014

This meeting of the Santa Fe County Corrections Advisory Committee was called to order by Chair Frank Susman at approximately 3:06 p.m. on the above-cited date at the Youth Development Center, 4250 Airport Road, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Roll call indicated the presence of a quorum with the following individuals present:

Members Present:

Frank Susman, Legal Community
Mary Ellen Gonzales, Restorative Justice
Maria Cristina Lopez, Immigrant Advocacy Community
Cpt. Dale Lettenberger, Law Enforcement - Investigative Bureau
Cpt. Adan Mendoza, Law Enforcement
Ben Baur, Public Defender's Office

Member(s) Excused:

Michelle George, Juvenile Justice
Maria Jose Rodriguez Cadiz, Mental Health Community
Dr. Steve S. Spencer, Medical Community/Substance Abuse
Judy Williams, Community at-large

Staff Present:

Mark Caldwell, Santa Fe County Deputy Warden
Renee Fernandez, Program Manager
Stacy Byard, Re-entry Specialist

I. Approval of Minutes: March 13, 2014

Ms. Gonzales moved to approve the minutes and Captain Lettenberger seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved. Chairman Susman noted he had made small, non-substantive changes.

II. Nominations and Election of a Committee Vice-Chair

Chairman Susman suggested deferring this item to the next meeting when more committee members are present and there was consensus to do so.

III. Introduction or Re-entry Specialist

Stacey Byard was introduced by the Chair and she stated she had been serving in the new capacity for approximately a month. Before that she has worked as a case manager. The position was created through a collaboration of the Departments of Public Health and Public Safety and has received grant funding. Among the assigned tasks and goals is opioid overdose prevention – the Narcan program – and education and data collection are components of that. The focus is on long-term opiate users and their families, although education is available to all interested parties. The Fire Department and pharmacies will also be involved.

In response to a question from the Chair, Ms. Byard said all inmates have case managers, but the re-entry coordinator is called on in the most challenging case, *i.e.*, those with behavioral health problems and those going through a competency or guardianship process. Medicaid and housing are also concerns. She described it as a form of more intensive case management. The goal is to identify those most at risk and listen to their needs. There has been a big push toward Medicaid enrollment and they are working with the Public Defenders Office to streamline the competency process.

Ms. Lopez said this committee wants to be a partner in the re-integration process.

Ms. Gonzales asked how they plan to gauge success. Ms. Byard said a big part of her role is data collection and surveying returnees on what helped them and what did not. She noted they want to ensure a “warm hand-off” to other community organizations, once they are released.

Chairman Susman spoke of law enforcement personnel’s preference for taking those with behavioral problems to jail (tying up the officer for about 30 minutes to accomplish the booking process, which is greatly quicker than taking them to the hospital emergency room (requiring an approximate three to four hour wait). Ms. Lopez mentioned that Ms. Williams has gathered some models for behavioral health programs.

Mr. Baur mentioned he will be working with Dr. Ayad from the jail to bring about a culture change regarding those with behavioral health problems. He said he would try to identify a member of his staff to be the contact person on these cases.

Captain Mendoza said by state statute and due to liability concerns, there are very few choices for law enforcement personnel regarding what to do with people they encounter with behavioral health issues.

Chairman Susman indicated 50 percent of the County’s budget goes to Corrections and keeping behavioral health cases in jail is the most expensive option and the least effective for minor, non-violent offenses.

Mr. Caldwell said measuring outcomes in the most problematic cases will help.

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Chairman Susman recommended making a specific recommendation to the County on something that might reasonably be accomplished and accompanied by a realistic budget for the same.

Mr. Baur pointed out there is a tremendous scarcity of services and Ms. Byard noted there is a six-month wait list for many of the services. She indicated that "New Mexico is notorious for a lack of behavioral health resources."

Mr. Caldwell stated law enforcement feels this scarcity lack even more than the jail, and this is true for juveniles as well.

Captain Lettenberger spoke of the "It Takes a Village" project. He related that there are now six subcommittees and he and Captain Mendoza are working on a crisis intervention team, for when a mental health or substance abuse problem arises. Life Link will participate with other professionals. He noted that it is not unheard of for law enforcement to have to deal with the same person up to six times in a week. The goal is de-escalation. A change in state statutes may be required to accomplish this goal. He said this would tie in with the LEAD program as well. Captain Mendoza said it would be helpful to be able to intervene in chronic cases, before they turn more serious.

Ms. Gonzales said she was impressed with Suzanne Pearlman's mental health first aid class, which she attended. Captain Lettenberger said the fact the train-the-trainer class costs \$1,500 per person, makes it difficult being near the end of the current budget year. Ms. Fernandez said the program is free for law enforcement officers.

Ms. Gonzales offered the suggestion that a County mental health program could be modeled after the County's health program, so that there would be a place to go for follow-up health.

If there were crisis intervention teams, Chairman Susman asked if there would be a reduction in the number of arrests and Captain Lettenberger said it would decrease both arrests and calls for service.

IV. Addressing Principal County Assignments:

- i. Review and assess of County's Community Reintegration Model and make recommendations (to the appropriate parties)**
- ii. Make recommendations (to the appropriate parties) about how to assist members of the community impacted by the incarceration of a friend or family understand what to expect and how to obtain information from facilities**

It was agreed that the first step would be creating a reintegration model, since one did not currently exist.

Mr. Baur expressed his appreciation for the jail taking the initiative in reaching out to his office. Mr. Caldwell said that is due to Public Safety Director Sedillo's priorities.

There was general discussion about the state of mental health treatment and the reality of those with behavioral problems being punished for their condition. Mr. Caldwell stated that if there were no inmates with behavioral health or substance abuse problems the population would fall to around 150 inmates.

Ms. Lopez asked about AA meetings during incarceration being mandated by judges. Chairman Susman said availability of meetings should appear on the Continuing Quality Improvement Report. Ms. Fernandez indicated volunteers conduct the AA and NA meetings. Additionally, the population is segregated by security level and sex, which makes it harder to arrange attendance at a meeting. Additionally, some classes are in English and some are in Spanish. Mr. Caldwell noted attendance figures is a "good time" considerations for getting out early. Captain Mendoza recommended there be a full-time position for the classes. He added the judges are aware of the programs, but it is up to the judges to impose attendance as part of any sentence. Ms. Byard said attendance records are kept and reports made to the Court.

V. Comments, Questions or Suggestions by Members as to Issues to be Addressed

None were offered.

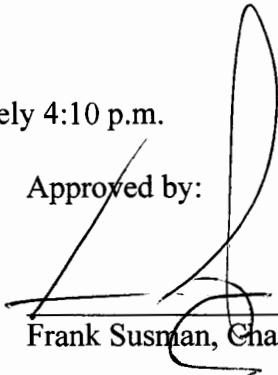
VI. Schedule Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for May 8, 2014.

VII. Adjournment

This meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:10 p.m.

Approved by:


Frank Susman, Chair

Respectfully submitted by:

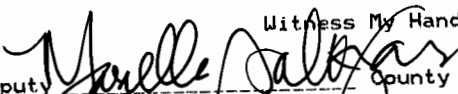
Debbie Doyle, Wordswork



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 12TH Day Of May, 2014 at 03:23:24 PM
And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 1736615
Of The Records Of Santa Fe County

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

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