

**MINUTES OF THE  
SANTA FE COUNTY  
DWI PLANNING COUNCIL**

**June 11, 2015**

**SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO**

I. This meeting of the Santa Fe County DWI Planning Council was called to order by Chair Thomas Starke at approximately 9:05 a.m. on the above-cited date at County Community Services Department Conference Room, 2052 Galisteo Street, Suite B.

II. Lacking a quorum initially, non-action items were discussed. The following members present:

**Members Present:**

Thomas P. Starke, Chair  
Erica Abeyta  
Richard De Mella  
Loralee Freilich [9:25 arrival]  
John Mowen

**Member(s) Absent:**

David Saldivar  
Leah Tafoya [excused]  
[2 vacancies]

**County Staff Present:**

Lupe Sanchez, DWI Program Coordinator  
Peter Olson, DWI Program staff  
Rachel O'Connor, Community Services Director

**Others Present:**

Yolanda Briscoe, Santa Fe Recovery Center  
Tina Sanchez, Life Link  
Shelley Mann-Lev, Santa Fe Prevention Alliance  
Jay Spoonheim, Interested Citizen

Those present introduced themselves.

III. **Approval of Minutes**

IV. **Approval of Agenda**

Lacking a quorum, these items were deferred.

**V. Matters from the Council/Action Items**

**A. Follow-up from previous meetings**

All present were invited to participate in a test/survey from the University of Maryland Alcohol Studies Program. Chairman Starke then went over the answers, demonstrating common misconceptions about alcohol use and abuse

**VI. Information Items**

**A. Santa Fe Recovery Center Treatment Program**

Yolanda Briscoe distributed informational brochures. She said they have two locations, one in Santa Fe and one in Espanola that they share with the Mountain Center. The residential facility has 23 beds and makes use of social detox. They don't do detox from benzodiazepines since it is more difficult and takes longer than withdrawal from alcohol or other drugs. They are funded by the state, county, tribes and private insurance. The population demographic is becoming younger and tend to leave earlier. Suboxone is used and she explained that withdrawal process. All of their clients are referred and there are extensive outpatient services after assessment.

Ms. Briscoe said the average length of stay is over 26 days. She identified challenges involved in keeping people in outpatient programs. They can adjust the program to take in housing and employment concerns. She described the incentives used to keep clients engaged.

She noted that the County had recently agreed to raise their reimbursement after ten years of the rates remaining the same. She spoke of the emerging population of heroin users that began on painkillers. She stressed "recovery does work" and with understanding comes compassion.

Ms. O'Connor asked about a program for women only. Ms. Briscoe said there will be a strategic planning session to discuss that issue among others. It would be gender-specific and trauma-informed.

Chairman Starke asked if there was a difference in the DWI offenders and Ms. Briscoe said it is difficult to tease that issue out; in some cases there was just bad luck in being caught rather than being a long-time addict.

**C. Life Link Program**

Ms. Sanchez stated Life Link is an outpatient, community mental health center and recovery center. They are gender specific and use a similar nine-hour per week intensive outpatient program as does the Recovery Center. They also use incentives. Assessments are done and referrals may be made. Some programs are skills based and life issues such as housing and employment are looked into. They have 132 housing sites throughout the county, much of which is shelter plus care. There is a Suboxone program which is capped at 25 people.

Ms. Sanchez outlined the numbers of people who are in the various programs. There are case managers who do follow-up and they coordinate with the homeless shelter.

Ms. Briscoe emphasized this is a challenging population and some need a higher level of care and structure.

**III. Approval of Minutes**

A quorum having been established, Chairman Starke reviewed changes he made to the minutes which were incorporated.

Mr. De Mella moved to approve the minutes as amended and Ms. Freilich seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**IV. Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was accepted by consensus.

**VI. C. Santa Fe Community College – Prevention Update**

Ms. Abeyta spoke of the Student Wellness Action program at Santa Fe Community College and area high schools. There are teams consisting of sixteen members, both high school and college. They address substance abuse, bullying and suicide prevention. They have partnered on measures such as cab rides and she has students program the number into their cell phones. A key component is planning ahead and being safe. They have been looking into the campus policies with an eye to modifying them and disseminating them at “tabling” events and through handbooks.

Referring to the cards that say, “Think Safe” Ms. Freilich said that sentiment is too soft. She preferred “Act Safe.” She suggested providing options to drinking under the category of “having a good time.” Additionally, kids need to be encouraged to think independently.

Ms. Abeyta said she brings in information about getting involved on campus and finding ways to engage. There is a survey given on protective behavior and the statistics are encouraging. Firestik has aided in doing focus groups and this has sparked conversation on not only drugs but mental health and healthy relationships. She said there are initiatives toward making the campus smoke-free. Workshops are provided regarding positive body image and self-esteem. There are now AA meetings on campus. There are internships for life skills teachers at elementary schools. There is now a Drug and Alcohol Prevention program on campus.

**VI. D. Law Enforcement Update**

Mr. Olson stated they continue to work with IT and the DA on discovery videos and are waiting on an approved list of recipients. He said there will be a checkpoint that evening “somewhere sneaky.”

**VI. E. Coordinator’s Report**

Mr. Sanchez referred to information in the packet on the Victim Impact panel surveys, specifically how the offenders experience various components of the process – law enforcement, jail, courts, compliance, etc. – is rated. The compliance experience was rated positively.

Chairman Starke mentioned a court program in southern New Mexico that emphasized respect for offenders and it halved the recidivism rate. Ms. Freilich recommended having an awareness program teaching people how to interact with law enforcement and Mr. Sanchez said they published an item on what to expect when you’re stopped, and Chairman Starke indicated civility should be stressed.

Mr. Sanchez said the packet also contains recommendations to the City Council including expanding public awareness (\$60,000), expand cab ride home program (\$40,000), and a pilot program on the crisis line to help family members of people who are drinking and driving (\$20,000). Ms. Freilich suggested handing out the crisis line number on durable cards at magistrate court. Chairman Starke said the court would have to be consulted on its policy.

Mr. Sanchez indicated he will be meeting with Sheila Lewis and the domestic violence group with an eye toward expanding it into the DWI program. There is a considerable overlap.

As the new fiscal year begins they will be contracting with Michelle Lis to help develop a strategy for HPPC regarding binge drinking. They will be discussing the use of the SBIRT program with the Department of Health. A best practice would be to use screening in a medical setting, such as the ER.

The Hundred Days of Summer will be starting up soon and more checkpoints and operations are anticipated. There will be a juvenile block party at the Zona del Sol on July 11<sup>th</sup>.

**VII. Miscellaneous**

**A. Public Comment**

None was offered.

**VIII. Announcements**

- Next Planning Council Meeting: July 9, 2015 at 9:00

