

MINUTES OF THE
SANTA FE COUNTY
CORRECTIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

June 12, 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 3:00 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
Dale Lettenberger, Law Enforcement - Investigative Bureau
Adan Mendoza, Law Enforcement
Maria Jose Rodriguez Cadiz, Mental Health Community
Steven S. Spencer, Medical Community/Substance Abuse
Judy Williams, Community at-large
Michelle George, Juvenile Justice

Member(s) Excused:

Ben Baur, Public Defender's Office

Staff Present:

Pablo Sedillo, Public Safety Director
Mark Gallegos, Warden
Mark Caldwell, Deputy Warden
Stacy Byard, Re-entry Specialist
Aaron Garcia, Case Management
Tila Rendon-Varela, Committee Liaison

Others Present:

Roman Garcia
Deacon Anthony Trujillo
Richard De Mella, City of Santa Fe



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STATE OF NEW MEXICO) ss CORRECTIONS ADVISORY C
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I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for
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Deputy Marella Gallegos Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office
Geraldine Salazar
County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM

SANTA FE COUNTY RECORDS 7/15/2014

III. Approval of Minutes: May 8, 2014

Ms. Gonzales moved to approve the minutes and Captain Lettenberger seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Chair Susman introduced Deacon Anthony Trujillo from the Archdiocese and Richard De Mella, Juvenile Justice Planner with the City of Santa Fe. The chair said he and Ms. Gonzales shared a meal with the Deacon where he described some concerns regarding the juvenile correctional facility. Chair Susman invited the Deacon to come to this meeting. At that point, the agenda had already been posted.

With no objections, the guests were invited to address the Committee.

Deacon Trujillo said he was currently assigned to the Parish of San Isidro in Santa Fe, serves as the coordinator for Hispanic youth and young adults for the Archdiocese and is currently serving as the chairman of Santa Fe Regional Juvenile Justice Board. The Deacon said he has been offering services at the youth facility for 21 years. His overarching concern is for the safety of the kids and the staff. About a year ago he said he observed things at the facility that caused him concerns. He emphasized that he has never been disrespected by staff or the youth and was speaking up because there were issues he felt needed to be addressed within the facility.

In the past there was a lot of tension at the facility and disrespect between youth and staff. He discussed how the facility was managed and organized 20 years ago with the separation of adults and youth and federal and state prisoners. He emphasized that there were never any problems with the services that he offered.

Deacon Trujillo said he has been in youth ministry for 42 years and knows from his experience that given opportunities youth can do incredible things. He said he did not know about the current activities offered at the facility but recalled in the past there were many community groups that came in.

Stating he wanted to address concerns, Director Sedillo requested the Deacon talk about what currently brought him to this meeting. "I do not like to look in the rearview mirror because I'll hit the car in front of me...let's look what we're doing today and what we're going to do in the future, not what we did 20 years ago."

Deacon Trujillo said he looks at the past to avoid errors and "thinks we can do better." He said he has talked to former staff and was told that their training was limited to take-down efforts rather than to deescalating situations. The Deacon again offered that no one had been disrespectful to him at the facility. He said there is very little interaction/communication between staff and the youth and he senses a level of fear between youth and staff. He has observed staff sitting outside of the locked pod looking in on the youth.

Conceding that he didn't know all the details, the Deacon described a recent incident at the facility where three youth jumped two staff members. He stated that in the past, all the young people could come together to participate in the ministering that he provided but this past

year they are divided because they don't get along. Keeping the youth separated is not teaching them how to be in community, stated the deacon.

In regard to participating as a group, Director Sedillo said he along with the entire institution and attended a church group musical event at the facility. He said it was unacceptable under his leadership to supervise behind glass and his staff interacts and engages with the youth. In fact, staff desks are within the pods to insure supervision occurs inside. He added that he will not tolerate using force on a youth.

Aaron Garcia said staffing numbers were up and direct supervision and on-the-job training is occurring. He said there are numerous ongoing classes occurring at the facility with outside organizations, i.e., SITE Santa Fe, Youth Shelter, Wildlife Center, State Police, guitar teaching, etc. Staff is learning how to mentor the youth.

Adult Facility Warden Mark Gallegos stated that he has been at the youth facility for the past few weeks working on the leadership/mentorship program. Speaking with his background in mental health and as a PhD candidate he said leadership courses are being taught to the shift supervisors and an effort to reorganize the entire facility is ongoing. There is a conscious effort to make this a better facility. He mentioned that during this period there have been no disciplinary or use of force/restraint incidents.

Warden Gallegos said every kid has a vision and the facility encourages them to display their thoughts, feelings and action with staff. He discussed the interaction of staff and youth from dominos to basketball. The adult facility has 91 volunteers in different capacities and staff is looking to develop a similar program at the youth facility.

Director Sedillo said when he served as the director of Juvenile Justice Services, CYFD, for the State it was mandatory that JPOs actively engage with the youth. These kids need to be successful and continual case management is critical.

Mr. De Mella asked about the guards' pay and education. Mr. Sedillo said the position is termed 'lifeskill workers.' The starting scale is \$11.31/hour and they need a high school diploma or GED.

Dr. Spencer expressed concern that the discussion was not appropriate in this venue. He recommended the guests meet with the facility administration.

Warden Gallegos said the level of expertise at the adult facility includes a psychologist, psychiatrist, and master's level therapists. The warden said management wants to be transparent in its actions and welcomed the deacon and Mr. De Mella to visit the sites.

Ms. Williams said she didn't see the article in the newspaper about the incident involving youth and lifeskill workers. She understood incidents happened and asked if there was more information that could be shared. Director Sedillo said there are some highly violent kids that come through the facility. Critical incident debriefings occurred and preventative measures will be taken in the future.

Dr. Spencer repeated his discomfort in having a guest bring up an incident that has not been listed on the agenda. He mentioned that he resigned from the committee in the past because it became obtrusive. This item should have been listed on the agenda and without that listing hearing it at this time was out of order.

Ms. Lopez disagreed with Dr. Spencer stating this is the type of thing the Committee should be addressing. She did agree that listing it on the agenda was appropriate. She emphasized that it was important that the community feel comfortable coming to the committee.

Ms. Lopez read from the enabling resolution, "...review and assess the County's policies and procedures as they relate to families and individuals who interact with County Corrections, Correctional staff and law enforcement...."

Speaking as a citizen and a former Santa Fe County Manager Roman Garcia said from 2002 through 2007 this committee did absolutely nothing and deteriorated. The County has people now who are working to improve the system and then there are those that are wedged in the past. He identified himself as wedged in the past. He said a lot of disappointing things happened when he was County Manager and he expressed concern that the youth facility is "ripe for more...and when we don't want to listen under the pretext that it's not on the agenda, it's not the venue, that's called a cover-up."

Mr. R. Garcia said he would ask permission to speak at the next meeting. He hoped for continued improvement. Recognizing the absence of the Public Defender's office, he said it was imperative to have their participation. People died at the jail when he was manager, stated Mr. R. Garcia and settlements occurred which he characterized as cover-ups. [He left the meeting]

Ms. Williams said it would have been procedurally correct to amend the agenda before approval which could have clarified this discussion.

Mr. A. Garcia said the facility is seeing a great deal more mental illness and behavioral issues in its youth.

Ms. Gonzales said she serves on the Juvenile Justice Board where Deacon Trujillo serves as chairman and Mr. De Mella serves as liaison. Judge Mary Marlowe had expressed concern with the youth facility but couldn't attend because of a previous engagement.

Deputy Warden Caldwell said he too serves on the Juvenile Justice Board and he never heard any concerns raised. In fact, he suggested it would have been best to begin the discussions with him. He acknowledged the facility has challenges and concerns adding that they recently met with the DA's office and Judge Marlowe, Drug Court, Probation and discussed issues at the facility. That meeting resulted in Judge Marlowe taking an extensive tour. He said he wished he had been given the opportunity as a JJB member to discuss these matters.

Deputy Warden Caldwell said he has 35 years in juvenile work and he concurred with Mr. A. Garcia's observation that there are dangerous young people.

Director Sedillo thanked the Committee and asked them not to lose focus on their task. Since this is an open public meeting he urged the Committee to have an accurate agenda or include public concerns as a regular item. Since he has been with the County he has worked hard to change the old culture that was present at the facility. There are kids coming in with severe mental illness and issues to violence in a degree that has never been seen before.

Director Sedillo said working at correctional facilities is a very difficult job. The facility has been in existence 25 years and the local work force is being depleted. Staffing is not easy and the safety of the kids is the number one priority. "If it's broke we're going to fix it," he stated.

Ms. Cadiz said the Committee will need to establish a clear mechanism for the public to bring forward information.

Director Sedillo thanked the Committee for their service and excused himself for the remainder of the meeting.

Member Lopez said it was important that the public not be discouraged from bringing information forward. The Committee can serve as a safe forum for the public to bring issues forward. She thanked the Deacon and Mr. De Mella for coming, adding their perspective is very valuable.

Mr. De Mella said the concerns are centered on the safety of the kids and staff. Deacon Trujillo said Aaron Garcia has always been helpful and supportive.

Deacon Trujillo thanked the Committee and said he was leaving the meeting encouraged and concurred with Deputy Warden Caldwell that he should have approached him first.

A discussion ensued about adding "Public Input" to the agenda. Ms. Cadiz suggested setting a time limit on public input.

Ms. Williams requested that the agenda also include "Introductions" following roll call.

Chair Susman said he did email Director Sedillo advising him that Deacon Trujillo would be attending today to discuss his concerns regarding the juvenile facility. Ms. George said the Committee members should have been cc'd the email.

Ms. Cadiz said it was important the public be welcomed and there should be no expectation that staff respond to the issues at that time. Mr. Mendoza said he preferred that staff not respond during the meeting and allow the meeting to serve as a information gathering.

There was confirmation that the committee operates under the Open Meetings Act.

There was consensus to include public comments on the agenda as well as introductions.

IV. Round II of Addressing Principal Assignments

- i. Review and assess the County's community re-integration model and make recommendations [to the appropriate parties]**
- ii. Review and assess the County's policies as they relate to families and individuals who interact with County corrections, correctional staff and law enforcement when visiting the facilities and make policy and procedural recommendations [to the appropriate parties]**

iii: Make recommendation [to the appropriate parties] about how to assist member of the community impacted by the incarceration of a friend or family understand what to expect and how to obtain information from the Facilities

Chair Susman advised the Committee that he anticipated developing a proposed draft report for the BCC that he would email to the members.

Chair Susman requested that staff review member term appointments and report back.

Stacy Byard, Re-entry Specialist, said she continues to perform her former job until the position is filled. YES New Mexico, an on-line portal, is being utilized for Medicaid enrollment. She will be attending training on presumptive eligibility at the end of the month. The department is making an effort to partner with State Human Service Department.

Ms. Byard said sixteen individuals have received opiate overdose training and will receive a Suboxone Rescue Kit upon release. Those that have received the training appear excited by the information.

Another aim of re-entry is to identify the available community resources for the residents while in the facility and/or upon release. She said the idea is to "increase the warm hand-off ... as they re-enter."

Ms. Gonzales asked about re-entry preparation at the youth facility. Ms. Byard said she does not to that.

With well over half the populations in both the youth and adult facilities having mental illness, Ms. Lopez asked how that was being addressed in terms of reintegration. Ms. Byard said it was unfortunate that New Mexico was greatly underfunded in terms of mental health treatment. The state has only one state hospital for the mentally ill.

Dr. Spencer asked Ms. Byard to provide a monthly or quarterly graphic report showing the numbers enrolled in Medicaid, assisted with housing, etc.

Warden Gallegos said individuals have been sent to psychiatric care at UNM and in the past month three individuals have gone to the state hospital. Delancey Street has very strict guidelines prohibiting any psychotropic drugs for entry in their programs.

A discussion ensued regarding court ordered mental assessments, outpatient care, inpatient care, etc.

Warden Gallegos said a lot of people are being sent to programs that they are not appropriately assessed for. The state lacks mapping to treat substance abuse and alternatives are not available. Now that the jail has a psychiatrist, psychologist and social workers it is considered as an alternative for placement in a treatment or home care situation.

Warden Gallegos advocated that the judicial system hire independent people to conduct assessments out of the probation department. He said jail is staffing 280 cases of severe substance abuse in combination with mental health issues on a quarterly basis.

Ms. Byard mentioned that individuals who have been incarcerated for a period of time are no longer considered to have an alcohol problem by treatment facilities nor are they considered homeless by the housing agencies.

Warden Gallegos mentioned that without a "home" address many inmates by court order are not permitted to leave the jail. The warden said he did not want the jail to be a therapeutic facility – a jail setting is not an appropriate treatment venue. He mentioned that Colorado has developed successful strategies that could be reproduced in New Mexico.

Ms. Williams asked Warden Gallegos if he could attend a County HPPC meeting to report on these issues.

Chair Susman recommended that next month's agenda here specific recommendations to the County. To better inform the Committee, Ms. Williams recommended inviting Rachel O'Connor, Director of Community Services, to the next meeting to provide a briefing on what the department is doing.

Dr. Spencer said he understood the Committee's role is to be that of an information bridge.

Two recommendations were offered: a community crisis intervention center and bona fide outpatient and inpatient services for referral straight from incarceration.

Ms. Gonzales said if the successful treatment structures developed in Colorado could be presented to the legislators she felt confident they could be enacted in New Mexico.

Captain Mendoza said he didn't have enough information at this point to develop recommendations. He suggested gathering additional data. Colorado and Hampton County, Massachusetts were mentioned as valuable models.

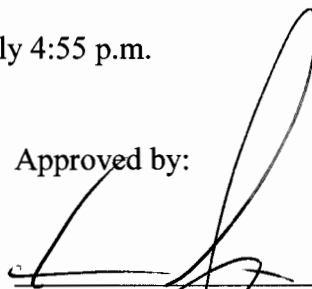
V. Comments questions and/or suggestions by members as to issues to be addressed

VI Schedule New Meeting – July 10th

VII Adjournment


This meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:55 p.m.

Approved by:



Frank Susman, Chair

Respectfully submitted by:


Karen Farrell, Wordswork