

MINUTES OF THE
SANTA FE COUNTY
CORRECTIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

July 10, 2014

The 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 Center, 4250 Airport Road, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

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

Members Present:

Frank Susman, Legal Community
Mary Ellen Gonzales, Restorative Justice
Deputy Chief, Dale Lettenberger, Santa Fe Police Department
Captain Adan Mendoza, Santa Fe County Sheriff's Office
Maria Jose Rodriguez Cadiz, Mental Health Community
Dr. Steve S. Spencer, Medical Community/Substance Abuse
Judy Williams, Community at-large
Ben Baur, Public Defender's Office

Member(s) Excused:

Michelle George, Juvenile Justice
Maria Cristina Lopez, Immigrant Advocacy Community

Staff Present:

Katherine Miller, County Manager
Pablo Sedillo, Public Safety Director
Mark Gallegos, Warden
Mark Caldwell, Deputy Warden
Rachel Brown, Deputy County Attorney
Rachel O'Connor, Community Services Director
Aaron Garcia, Corrections
Dr. Merritt Ayad, Mental Health Manager
Tila Rendon-Varela, Staff Liaison
Jose Jacquez, Corrections

Others Present:

Andy Stiny, Albuquerque *Journal*
Chris Quintana, Santa Fe *New Mexican*

II. **Introductions**

Those present introduced themselves.



COUNTY OF SANTA FE)
STATE OF NEW MEXICO) ss

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

III. Approval of Agenda

Dr. Spencer suggested that all agendas include reports from officials, which would follow approval of the agenda and minutes. A discussion ensued over proper procedure for amending agendas and notice requirements of the Open Meetings Act.

Upon motion by Ms. Williams and second by Mr. Baur, the agenda was unanimously approved.

IV. Minutes: June 1, 2014

Upon motion by Mr. Baur to approve the June minutes and second Ms. Williams, the motion was unanimously approved..

V. Public Comments

None were offered.

VI. Presentation by Rachel O'Conner, Santa Fe County Director of Community Services, Concerning New Methods of Funding Indigent Care in the County, the County's Mental Health and Substance Abuse Project and its Future Plans in the Next Few Years [*Exhibit 1: Power Point Presentation*]

Ms. O'Connor stated she wanted to acquaint the committee with where the Community Services Department overlaps with concerns of this committee. The Department consists of four divisions: Community Safety, including the DWI Program; Senior Services, consisting of seven centers providing services such as meals and transportation; Community Operations that oversee the community centers, fair, libraries and satellite offices; and Health Services, comprised of the Healthcare Assistance Program, mobile health van, Health Policy and Planning Commission, and special projects.

The department has been revamped and changes have been instituted, subsequent to the abolishing of the sole community provider program. Further changes are anticipated in line with the *Community Health Profile* and the *Health Action Plan*, which documents she distributed to committee members. She reviewed how the documents were generated in order to guide the County's efforts at healthcare reform.

Ms. O'Connor outlined the previous funding mechanisms *versus* current methods. She stated "Santa Fe County is no longer in the business of funding hospitals." What was Indigent Funding is now the Health Care Assistance Program (HAP), through which \$900,000 goes to agencies that provide services to those not eligible for care under Centennial or Medicaid, but who still meet the definition of "indigent." This covers primary care, behavior health, including drug and alcohol treatment, some dental, ambulance and burial services.

The second half of the GRT dedicated to health issues will go to two priorities

determined by the HPPC: Reduction of low birth rate babies; And a mobile crisis response team. An RFP for the crisis team will be going out within six weeks.

Chairman Susman asked what the County is doing about the well-recognized dearth of service providers in Santa Fe County. Ms. O'Connor noted her department has increased funding to drug and alcohol programs, along with a group called Santa Fe Opiate Safe to coordinate problems arising from opiates. Funds are going to La Familia for treatment of addicted pregnant women and it is currently serving 44 women. Life Link and Santa Fe Recovery Center are also receiving funds under this priority. She hopes to make up recent shortfalls from DWI funds.

Chairman Susman asked about the number of individuals assisted. Ms. O'Connor gave approximate numbers served through the various programs, adding they have a matrix that keeps track of this.

Captain Mendoza asked whether they play a role in the administration of Narcan at the jail. Ms. O'Connor said they do, in partnership with the Public Safety Department, the Sheriff's Office, La Familia, the schools and the Fire Department. Mr. Sedillo said community education is key. The jail population was initially skeptical and apprehensive, but education has helped. Warden Gallegos described the procedure upon admission, noting that 80 percent of the people who enter have substance abuse issues, requiring a needed change in culture.

Ms. O'Connor spoke of special projects, including Narcan and the reduction of overdoses and increased Medicaid enrollment. These are geared toward those newly released from jail. She lauded the role of re-entry specialist, Stacey Byard.

Turning to the mobile health van, Ms. O'Connor said its role is primarily preventative but it is also involved in extending care to rural areas and harm reduction through Narcan, as well as Medicaid enrollments.

The HPPC and Maternal and Child Health Council serve in advisory and information capacities to the BCC. Mr. Sedillo pointed out that the BCC recently passed a resolution asking Congress to change its policies on suspending Medicaid for those awaiting trial.

Ms. Williams noted that the Narcan program is on the cutting edge. She said she sees the coming year as one of gathering data, as claims-based services drop off. She encouraged finding more evidence-based programs. Ms. O'Connor emphasized that many of the processes are new and need to be worked out. The issues will have to be addressed slowly.

In response to a question from Dr. Spencer, Warden Gallegos said approximately 80 percent of the inmates are pre-trial. Ms. O'Connor said they are looking at Medicaid both upon release and while awaiting trial. Mr. Sedillo noted that one hindering issue to Medicaid enrollment is not having a release date.

VII. Current Court Project

Mr. Baur spoke of the Santa Fe District Courts Program, which started last December by Judge Marlow Sommer, with representatives of law enforcement, the jail, mental health providers, citizens groups, NAMI, public defender and District Attorney's Office participating. A general plan was put forward and committees formed. The intent is to deal with mental health issues earlier in the process – for instance, street contact with law enforcement, through probation or parole in order to improve outcomes at each contact point.

The “It Takes a Village” group, now known as the Alliance, is trying to provide the mentally ill with other options besides being taken to jail, such as through the use of a mobile crisis unit.

Another issue is changing court rules and legislation to address this population. Mr. Baur recounted how establishing competency can lead to a psychological evaluation, but can also slow down the process and require someone remaining in jail for prolonged periods of time. The setting of firm time limits would help.

Mr. Baur brought up treatment guardianships and civil commitments, which can be better options. There are also new efforts geared toward youth. Warden Gallegos noted that there are more programs for juveniles, due to the intervention of CYFD. Mr. Sedillo said there are treatment options available both at the adult and juvenile facilities. Warden Gallegos stated the probation officer guides referrals to substance abuse treatment for juveniles, subject to bed space availability at the facilities.

Chairman Susman asked what role this committee could play. Mr. Baur stated he would bring any of his concerns to the committee and Ms. O'Connor added they are looking for the appropriate transitions out and having a good overlap of services. Mr. Baur brought up the fact that improved services are cost-effective. “People that pay at the front end aren't necessarily the ones that benefit at the back end, so you have to approach it as a system.” The re-entry specialist position recognizes this. Chairman Susman said that was the crux of his previous presentation to the BCC.

Warden Gallegos lauded the work of the jail's mental health unit, particularly Dr. Ayad.

Mr. Baur indicated they are also hoping to work with the judiciary on the bond issue. In some instances, the inability to make bail also leads to unnecessary confinement. Warden Gallegos pointed out that magistrate judges are now coming in on weekends for arraignment, which is very helpful.

Dr. Ayad stated he was disheartened by Medicaid's requirement of a release date, which is often unpredictable. The gap that exists now, prevents there being a “warm hand-off” to a community provider. Ms. O'Connor said her department is training people in pre-emptive eligibility and while progress is continuing, glitches remain in application timing. Mr. Sedillo reiterated that that Commission is striving to encourage congressional action.

Warden Gallegos noted that the suspension of Medicaid should be only for those already sentenced.

VIII. Discussion of Possible Specific Suggestions to the Board of County Commissioners Related to the Department of Corrections

Chairman Susman asked for suggestions on what messages the Committee wanted to convey to the BCC. Mr. Baur mentioned support for changes to improve the Medicaid situation. Dr. Spencer spoke of highlighting progress made on the re-entry issue. "We're here for two purposes: One is to learn and the other is to report to the BCC and make recommendations."

Captain Mendoza raised the issue of continued or additional funding for community-based programs.

IX. Comments, Questions and/or Suggestions by Members as to Additional Issues to Be Addressed

Ms. Gonzales stated she knew there was an investigation concerning the teenager who recently died, Ms. Gonzales and she was interested in the policy surrounding such an event – how long it takes, who does it, what is done, does policy change, how is the family involved?

Ms. Williams added they were not asking for any specific information, rather what is the procedure initiated by a major event.

Mr. Sedillo said policies and procedures are in place when a criminal or non-criminal priority one incident takes place. He distributed the policies to committee members. Additionally, the treatment team develops transition plans, especially for those under CYFD.

County Attorney Rachel Brown stated the committee's role was to deal with policies as they involve visitation.

Mr. Sedillo reviewed the steps undertaken when a priority one incident takes place, including involvement of the Sheriff's Department and staff debriefings. Ms. Rodriguez Cadiz brought up possible trauma, particularly where kids are involved and Mr. Sedillo said their qualified health professionals step in at that point.

Ms. Gonzales expressed concern that the Sheriff's Department, as part of the County, might be too closely related and perhaps the State Police should be involved. Mr. Sedillo said State Police are called in, if there are complaints by juveniles of abuse. Capt. Mendoza said State Police occasionally becomes involved, if there is a potential conflict of interest, but the Sheriff's Department comes in for cases of drugs or assaults.

Mr. Baur said the Sheriff looks at criminal issues, not the policies themselves. Mr. Sedillo said CYFD has the authority to initiate investigations. Audits are conducted in conjunction with the legal department and the risk management department.

Ms. Williams asked about the interface with the media. Ms. Brown indicated the policies are open records, but information about specific people is confidential.

Dr. Spencer mentioned the morbidity and mortality reviews held at hospitals and asked if that occurred under CQI. Mr. Sedillo said the policy references that.

Turning to issues from the last meeting, Dr. Spencer brought up a mention of Colorado's program and asked if that could be explored further.

Warden Gallegos said his reference to no release without a home address referred to electronic monitoring. Mr. Baur said they are trying to find ways to track people so that incarceration can be avoided, such as day reporting.

Warden Gallegos spoke of his experience in Colorado, where a certain number of beds are set aside to each county, so that psychological assessments can be done under a 72-hour to 30-day hold. This was prompted by a class action lawsuit.

X. Schedule Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for August 14, 2014.

XI. Suggested Items for Next Meeting

Dr. Spencer asked what staff felt about speaking at the meetings. Chairman Susman said staff is routinely at meetings and available to report and answer questions. There was further discussion on setting the agenda and notice.

County Manager Katherine Miller said notice of the meeting is required ten days prior and changes to the agenda can be made up to 72 hours prior.

Mr. Sedillo said the biggest issue for committee purposes is to bridge the gap in making the transition back into the community. There is a revolving door of high utilizers and programs need to be identified to help with this.

Ms. Williams noted there are no "half-way houses" in the county. Mr. Sedillo said they are known as "transitional units."

Ms. Gonzales returned to the aforementioned incident and asked about the policies related to notifying the families. Mr. Sedillo said that is in the policies just handed out.

Ms. Williams stated she would like to see the newly established protocol for transitioning between the jail and hospital. Warden Gallegos said the jail-to-hospital hand-off is well established; the other direction policy is being worked on and he will bring more information to the next meeting. He offered to take phone calls from committee members.

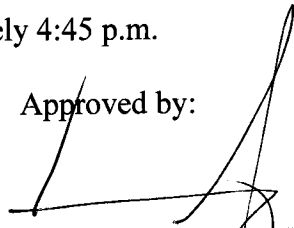
Ms. Rodriguez Cadiz said she appreciated the jail's efforts in connecting the dots,

regarding the transition process.

XII. Adjournment

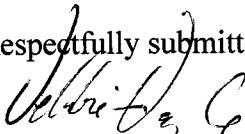
This meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:45 p.m.

Approved by:

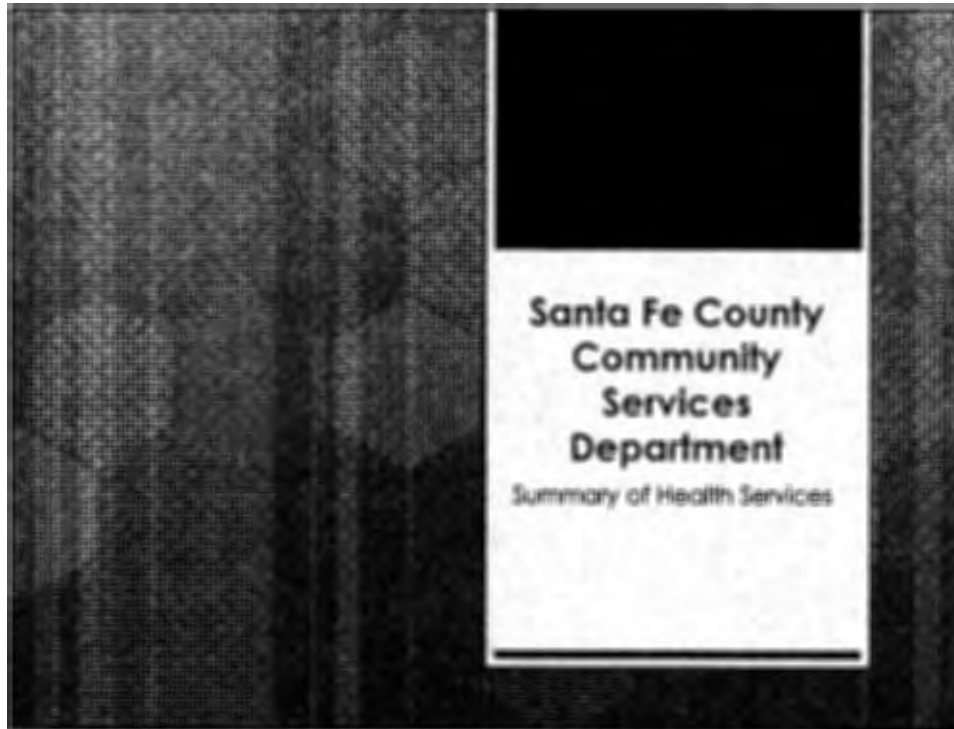


Frank Susman, Chair

Respectfully submitted by:


Debbie Doyle, Wordswork

CLERK RECEIVED 09/25/2014



Community Services Overall

- Community Safety
- Senior Services
- Community Operations
- Health Services

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Health Services

- Healthcare Assistance Program
- Mobile Health Van
- Health Policy and Planning Commission
- Special Projects

Health Care Assistance Program

- Provides healthcare assistance to those with indigent clients with healthcare needs.
- Overall about \$1.5 million in community based services and projects
- Claims based services for primary care, substance abuse, mental health and ambulance.
- Project Funds:
 - Low birth weight babies
 - Mobile Crisis Response

Mobile Health Van

About 2,500 visitors a year

Primarily preventative in the provision of services

- Blood Pressure Checks
- Screenings

Other services including depressions screenings, health care enrollment, flu shot clinics

HPPC

- Policy Advisors
- Community Health Profile
- County Health Action Plan
- Healthcare Reform

Special Projects

- La Familia-Treatment program for pregnant women
- La Familia-Medicaid Enrollment
- SF County Jail-Narcan and Enrollment
- SOS
- Food Policy
- Imagination Library