

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

**September 11, 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 2:05 p.m. on the above-cited date at the Adult Detention Center, Camino Justicia, 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  
Adan Mendoza, Law Enforcement  
Maria Jose Rodriguez Cadiz, Mental Health Community  
Steve S. Spencer, Medical Community/Substance Abuse  
Judy Williams, Community at-large [late arrival]  
Michelle George, Juvenile Justice  
Maria Cristina Lopez, Immigrant Advocacy Community  
Ben Baur, Public Defender's Office

**Member(s) Excused:**

Dale Lettenberger, Law Enforcement - Investigative Bureau

**Staff Present:**

Pablo Sedillo, Public Safety Director  
Mark Caldwell, Deputy Warden  
Aaron Garcia, Corrections  
Tila Rendon-Varela, Staff Liaison  
Nelson Abeyta, Corrections  
Edward Roybal, Corrections  
Stacy Byard, Corrections




COUNTY OF SANTA FE )  
STATE OF NEW MEXICO ) ss

CORRECTIONS ADVISORY  
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**II. Introductions**

Those present introduced themselves.

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

### **III. Approval of Agenda**

Ms. George asked that item VII., Election of new officers, take place after item V. Dr. Spencer seconded. The motion carried unanimously [6-0]. [Members Bauer, Lopez and Williams were not present for this action.]

Ms. Rendon-Varela noted that the tour of the facility was erroneously placed before several other items. Ms. Gonzales moved to change that to the final item. Ms. George seconded and the motion carried by unanimous [6-0] voice vote. [Members Bauer, Lopez and Williams were not present for this action.]

Upon motion by Ms. Gonzales and second by Ms. George the agenda was unanimously [6-0] approved as amended. [Members Bauer, Lopez and Williams were not present for this action.]

### **IV. Minutes: July 10, 2014**

Ms. Gonzales moved to approve the July minutes and Dr. Spencer. The motion carried unanimously [6-0]. [Members Bauer, Lopez and Williams were not present for this action.]

#### **Minutes: August 14, 2014**

Upon motion by Ms. Gonzales and second by Ms. Lopez the August minutes were unanimously [6-0] approved as submitted. [Members Bauer, Lopez and Williams were not present for this action.]

[Ms. Lopez and Mr. Baur joined the meeting.]

### **V. Review of Progress of the Corrections Advisory Committee Toward Accomplishing Tasks Set Forth in Resolution No. 2012-149**

Ms. Gonzales asked to hear from staff, and Mr. Sedillo pointed out that at the last meeting it was agreed that little had been accomplished. Captain Mendoza stated there was a suggestion that they had been on a learning curve. Ms. Gonzales said in the case of the It Takes a Village project, there was value in learning what the various groups involved were doing. Mr. Baur gave his impression that the previous meeting was successful in that they were able to refocus their efforts and measure their progress vis-à-vis the resolution.

Mr. Sedillo agreed, saying what the jail needs is something that will bridge the gap in wrap-around services for released inmates.

Chairman Susman noted that in the past 15 months nothing had been suggested and voted down. He said it was hard to get a handle on what the committee could do collectively or individually.

Mr. Sedillo stated the committee was formulated with a variety of disciplines to deal with issues of reintegration, particularly with medical and mental health services. He said, "Once they

leave these front doors it's a black hole sometimes...I don't want to see them back here." Referrals are hard to come by because the programs available are so restrictive.

Chairman Susman said committee members might not have the ability to solve those problems; they can only go back to the groups they represent.

Mr. Sedillo said Corrections needs a voice in the community and to the BCC.

## **X. Status of BCC Report**

Turning to item X, Chairman Susman asked for recommendations for the next report to the Commission, which is overdue. [*Exhibit 1: Draft Report*] Mr. Sedillo suggested mentioning that problems with reintegration have been identified.

Ms. Gonzales said she liked the shorter format. She suggested adding something about the cross-pollination that comes from having members affiliated with different groups.

Ms. Rodriguez Cadiz asked if the Commission was listening to their statements about lack of wraparound services. Mr. Sedillo said the County Manager is aware of the problems. Ms. Rodriguez Cadiz recommended establishing a list of priorities. Mr. Sedillo suggested taking one focus area at a time. Ms. Lopez agreed a single focus was a good idea, followed by going to the community groups with statistics. Looking at the successes of other cities would be one tactic.

Dr. Spencer outlined his comments on the draft report. He added credit for creating the reintegration position should also go to Rachel O'Connor and Lisa Leiding. Chairman Susman said he would rather not mention specific people. Dr. Spencer cited the great importance of Ms. Byard's position.

Ms. Williams suggested the language: We're very happy that this position has been created and filled and is successfully solving some of our problems of Medicaid enrolment, Narcan, etc. And it was agreed to use that language

Ms. Rendon-Varela said she would work to get the report on the October 28<sup>th</sup> meeting.

## **VII. Election of New Officers**

The resolution calls for annual election of a chair and vice chair. Chairman Susman outlined the duties involved. Ms. George expressed her frustration at the lack of a team approach by the current chair.

With none of the other committee members willing to assume the duties Chairman Susman was named chair and Ms. Rodriguez Cadiz will serve as vice chair and parliamentarian.

Mr. Sedillo noted five committee members have two-year terms and Chairman Susman said he will email a list of the members and their term lengths. Those interested in staying on the committee can reapply.

## **VI. Action Plan for Accomplishing Tasks Set Forth in Resolution No. 2012-140**

Chairman Susman asked that everyone bring in action items, such as provided by Captain Mendoza at the previous meeting. Ms. Williams asked that the stakeholders be heard from regarding current barriers to successful reintegration. Captain Mendoza suggested identifying resources and referral services in subsections, i.e., medical, housing, etc., then meet with them to find out more about the restrictions they impose on entrants to their programs. Chairman Susman stated he assumed all of the agencies are taking all the applicants they can handle.

Ms. Byard said she will bring a list of referral agencies to the next meeting. Regarding post-incarceration services, she stated that agencies that provide inpatient rehab, such as Lifelink, Santa Fe Recovery, Hoy Recovery and Turquoise Lodge are not taking released inmates since they are leaving the facility stable and detoxed. Medicaid does not cover residential treatment.

Mr. Sedillo said he would like to see a one-stop shop for services to avoid the revolving door syndrome.

## **VIII. Monthly/Quarterly Report Showing Numbers Enrolled in Medicaid, Assisted with Housing, Etc.**

At Ms. Byard's recommendation, employment was chosen as the first primary focus area. She said 70 inmates have been enrolled in Medicaid. She successfully completed a presumptive eligibility course and is empowered to enroll inmates for 30 days pending full-blown acceptance. This allows those leaving to get 30-day prescriptions and will speed up the process in general. She noted that only 35 percent of those entering the jail do not have any form of insurance. 39 percent have Medicaid, 19 percent have private insurance, 5 percent have insurance through their employer and 2 percent through Indian Health Services. If inmates are in for longer than 60 days Medicaid is suspended.

Regarding community referrals, 110 inmates were referred to outpatient counseling, inpatient treatment, residential programs, housing, food stamps or auxiliary services such as AA meetings or domestic violence shelters. She stressed that providing employment services is difficult and asked committee members to provide suggestions on potential employers. Chairman Susman suggested getting endorsements from employers who have successfully hired inmates.

Chairman Susman noted it would be useful to have some idea of how many inmates are staying for various ranges of time, rather than having a raw average. Mr. Sedillo said the numbers are skewed because some people are incarcerated pending adjudication, and many bail out almost immediately.

Major Abeyta said 80 to 90 percent of the inmates are repeat offenders.

Ms. Gonzales asked if those who were going to be in for a longer time were treated differently with regard to services. Ms. Byard said the inmates themselves ask for services.

Those staying longer can settle into programs more effectively. A medical evaluation occurs after 14 days.

#### **IX. Phone System Discussion**

Mr. Baur explained that corrections facilities generally contract with a company to handle inmates' phone calls. Chairman Susman stated Santa Fe has a good service that is more inexpensive than most and does not charge for calls to attorneys, whereas in some cases it is viewed as a lucrative profit center.

Lt. Roybal said the cost here is 11 cents per minute in-state and 21 cents for out-of-state. Inmates purchase cards with up to 100 minutes, up to two per week. Family or friends can contribute to the inmate's account. Mr. Sedillo stated elsewhere in the state the per-minute charge is 21 to 35 cents per minute. Information about the system is on the website.

Use of the cards is monitored to prevent abuse. There is a list provided by the inmate of people who can visit or receive calls. Information for families and friends can be obtained on the website, from the handbook or from talking to the case manager. Mr. Sedillo said he is looking at having a TV screen with the rules and regulations. He added there are many people in the facility that speak Spanish and can aid visitors.

#### **XIII. Matters from Staff**

Mr. Sedillo said they plan to publish positive information on the website to highlight good things that are happening at the facility, such as the new labyrinth.

Mr. Sedillo stated they advertised for the new warden position and there have been four applicants, two of whom were responsive. It will be reposted nationally.

[The committee recessed briefly to sample a meal served at the facility.]

#### **XI. Discussion of "It Takes a Village"**

Mr. Baur said the Alliance, as it now called, has been working in break-out groups. He met with a group dealing with the crisis team. An RFP has gone out for the mobile crisis response unit.

Ms. Williams said the treatment team met at the municipal courthouse and was well attended.

#### **XIV. Matters from the Committee**

Ms. Gonzales asked if there was a medical officer at the juvenile facility. Mr. Roybal said there is a nurse on the premises at all times. Ms. Gonzales asked what was happening with the day reporting program and Ms. Rendon-Varela said negotiations are ongoing.

**XV. Matters from the Public**

None were offered.

**XVI. Suggested Items for Next Meeting**

Chairman Susman reviewed the agenda, noting which items would be standing items. Ms. Byard will be providing a list of referrals and a breakdown of lengths of stay.

The next meeting was scheduled for November 13<sup>th</sup> at the juvenile facility from 3:00 to 5:00.

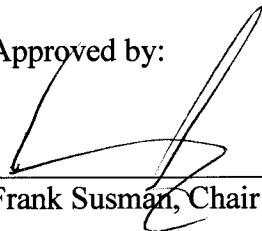
**XII. Tour/Meeting with Staff**

Members of the committee adjourned for an abbreviated tour of the facility, focusing on the facilities for visitors.

**XIII. Adjournment**

This meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:25 p.m.

Approved by:



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Frank Susman, Chair

Respectfully submitted by:



Debbie Doyle, Wordswork

**DRAFT**Formatted: Left: 2.38 cm, Right: 2.54 cm,  
Top: 2.03 cm, Bottom: 2.03 cm**Santa Fe County Corrections Advisory Committee  
2nd Semi-Annual Report (January-June, 2014)  
To The Santa Fe County Commission****Activities**

During the period of January through June, 2014, the Corrections Advisory Committee ("Committee") met monthly and continued its efforts to hear from many of the parties involved with services to detainees during incarceration, their re-entry into the community and their follow-up after release from the correctional facilities of Santa Fe County. During this period, the Committee heard from and sought information from Public Safety Director Pablo Sedillo, Warden Mark Gallegos, Deputy Warden Mark Caldwell, Compliance Officer Anthony Martinez, Financial Manager Steve Shepherd, Nurse Manager Lisa Leiding, Re-entry Specialist Stacy Byard, Staff Psychologist Dr. Merritt Ayad, CQI Coordinator Ardis Thomas, Adult Facility Program Manager Renee Fernandez, Dr. Laura Brown of the Santa Fe Recovery Center, Archdiocesan Deacon Anthony Trujillo, Juvenile Justice Planner for the City of Santa Fe Richard De Mella, the Coalition for Prisoners' Rights Director Mara Taub and author Demetria Martinez.

We have continued to hear about the processes followed in the facilities, staff responsibilities, needs of detainees and the difficulties of connecting detainees to community services upon release. A number of Committee members have been active on related tasks, including the Health Action Plan for Santa Fe County, the District Court's work on improving systems of care for those leaving the facilities and other parallel activities.

*And serve on Santa Fe County Regional JJ Bd*

**Conclusions and Recommendations**

1. The Committee is concerned that while improvements have been made in the State of New Mexico's Medicaid eligibility process, barriers still remain. This is in spite of the fact that the DOC now has a staff member dedicated to assisting detainees with the application process. The Committee urges the Santa Fe County Commission and the District Court to encourage the New Mexico Human Services Department to permit detainees to complete their Medicaid applications and to be assigned a case manager, while still in the facility. This applies particularly to those who have not been adjudicated and therefore have not been assigned the currently required "release date."
2. A major goal of the Committee in the coming months is to assist the Department of Corrections in formulating a "Re-entry and Reintegration Model" for prisoners. We plan to reach out to community providers in an effort to assist the DOC in facilitating connections to various services in the community, including locating suitable employment.
3. The Committee firmly believes that out-patient treatment for released detainees in need of behavioral health services is more effective and more cost-efficient than in-patient facilities and that this is the principal area where the improvement of current services should lie. The Committee has learned of the barriers to connecting to community-based services of all kinds and

*how?*

would like to see case management services available upon release, in order to create a seamless transition from the facility into the community.

4. The Committee commends the Commission for creating and funding the position of Re-entry Specialist, for working to facilitate Medicaid enrollment and for its work on the Narcan training and distribution program within the facility. We strongly recommend that continued funding be available for the critical position of Re-entry Specialist, now ably filled by Stacy Byard.

5. The Committee continues to review detainee re-entry programs in other jurisdictions for potential concepts and ideas applicable to Santa Fe County.

6. The Committee will continue to assess any barriers to family contacts, to be involved with the facility and its staff and to review carefully all data provided by the DOC.

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Frank Susman, Committee Chair