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MINUTES OF THE

SANTA FE COUNTY

CORRECTIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

September 12, 2013

Santa Fe, New Mexico

This meeting of the Santa Fe County Corrections Advisory Committee was called to order by Chair Frank Susman at approximately 3:03 p.m. on the above-cited date at the Youth Development Center, 4250 Airport Road, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

The following individuals present:

Members Present:

Frank Susman
~~Mark Caldwell~~
Mary Ellen Gonzales
Maria Cristina Lopez
Adan Mendoza
Steve S. Spenser
Maria Jose Rodriguez Cadiz
Judy Williams

Member(s) Excused:

Michelle George
Joan Morales



Staff Present:

Pablo Sedillo, Public Safety Department Director
Mark Gallegos, Warden
Tila Rendon-Varela, Department Administrator, Public Safety Department

Chair Susman read a letter from Joan Morales regarding her concern that coming changes in behavior health will impact the CAC's mission. She asked that "Changes to the behavioral health system" be placed on the next agenda and that a meeting be held soon. There was consensus to do so.

Additionally, an email from Ardis Thomas, CQI Coordinator, proposed an all-day training session, and listed various items to acquaint the committee members with jail procedures. Chair Susman asked that her presentation be limited to two hours. Mr. Sedillo noted that at the previous meeting there were introductions by heads of departments at the jail as well as a tour.

He said it was at the committee's discretion to ask for more detail. He added the situation will change with the Affordable Care Act vis-à-vis behavioral health and acute medical conditions.

Ms. Williams expressed her interest in jail programs and discharge planning, specifically case management. Mr. Sedillo noted there is a disconnect when inmates are discharged into the community. "We need to bridge that gap, and we need your assistance."

Warden Gallegos explained classification officers are concerned principally with security but also work on programs and aftercare. They work with Life Link, Hoy and other programs to facilitate referrals. Mr. Sedillo said IDT (Interdisciplinary Treatment Team) meetings illustrate the coordinated efforts of all the departments to come up with something akin to an individual treatment plan for each inmate inside the facility and beyond. They work on approximately 70 cases per month.

Ms. Gonzales mentioned the work of the Interfaith Shelter who helps people with résumés and job applications. Warden Gallegos said employees of the Workforce Solution Department come into the facility to give seminars on employment but he was happy to have assistance from any other entity.

Ms. Lopez stated the previous meeting gave her ideas of where she could go for more information so she did not feel more in-depth information on jail procedures was necessary. Pointing to the mission of lowering recidivism and integration into the community, she said she was more interested in programs that aid in their mission.

Chair Susman read Ms. Thomas list of suggested topics. The committee was interested in hearing about classification as it pertains to case management, behavioral health, and programs. He said that would amount to approximately 1 hour, 10 minutes. There was consensus to devote the October meeting to potential changes in behavioral health as suggested by Ms. Morales, and the November meeting to Ms. Thomas' concerns.

Regarding meeting scheduling, Dr. Spencer, as a member of the initial Corrections Advisory Committee, said this group was dissolved because it was seen to meet too frequently, was overly intrusive and some of the Commissioners were concerned about mission creep and exceeding their mandate. For that reason the enabling resolution specified meetings every two months. He said having meetings more often they could be headed for trouble. He added that he spoke with Lisa Leiding who is in charge of the medical department, and he will be receiving in-depth statistical information to aid in his role.

Chair Susman disagreed that the Commission intended to place constraints on meeting frequency, saying the committee should meet as often as they feel it is necessary. Capt. Mendoza stated the committee should meet as often as they deem necessary but was confused about the overall priorities. Although each member brings his or her own expertise recommendations should be made as a board.

Ms. Williams said if their mission is not time-sensitive they need not worry about how long they take.

Chair Susman referred to the enabling resolution relating to scope of work: "C. Review and assess the County's policies and procedures as they relate to families and individuals who interact with the County Corrections Department." As he understood it, the policies are still in flux. "D. Make recommendations as to how to assist members of the community impacted by the incarceration of a friend or family member."

Ms. Gonzales stressed there needs to be a focus on mental health issues. Ms. Williams said reintegration is also important.

Mr. Sedillo emphasized everything cannot be done at once. Issues have to be tackled one by one. He added policies are now in place and they are moving quickly through the accreditation procedure. Chair Susman asked the Director what his chief priority was and Mr. Sedillo responded the biggest impact to the community is the case management disconnect, including medical follow-up. He said he was initially dubious about an oversight committee, but now believes the community and stakeholders need to be involved to ensure wraparound services. People get stabilized inside the facility, but there has to be follow-up. Behavior health issues, medical issues and substance abuse have a direct relation to crime. He said he was reaching out to the committee to help bridge the gaps.

Capt. Mendoza asked if there was a reintegration model, as referred to in the resolution, and which components are working. Warden Gallegos said there is such a model but there needs to be community coordination with Life Link, the Recovery Center, etc. to ensure services are in place. He reminded the committee the average stay is 9.7 days which makes it difficult to arrange for aftercare services, and ascertain things like whether the person has a home to go to.

Ms. Rodriguez Cadiz suggested a list be made of factors leading to recidivism and what services are available to deal with those factors.

III. Approval of Minutes: July 11 and August 8, 2013

Ms. Gonzales moved to approve the minutes of July 11th and Ms. Lopez seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Upon motion by Ms. Williams and second by Ms. Lopez the August 8th minutes were unanimously approved.

IV. Down to Business: Addressing the Committee's Assignment

Committee members were asked to state what they felt the chief priorities were and they were listed as follows:

- RE: Reintegration
 - 1. Medical
 - a. Follow up
 - b. Assist w/appointments

- c. Medication
- 2. Employment
 - a. Skills
 - b. Education
 - c. Opportunities
- 3. Housing
- 4. Linkage to Services
- 5. Mental Health
- 6. Substance Abuse
- 7. Restorative Justice

Health – copy of Integration Policy and Programs

Dr. Spencer said he looked forward to the accreditation report to get a better idea of discharge planning. Chair Susman noted the importance of medical records following the inmate. Ms. Gonzales indicated she would like to see the reintegration policy. Ms. Williams spoke of the Health Policy and Planning Commission's community health profile and action plan and hoped that jail priorities would be included. She said there is discussion of funding a position in the jail to do Narcan and case management. Ms. Rodriguez Cadiz emphasized the need for one agency to do case management.

Ms. Lopez pointed out that ICE activities can be an obstacle to reintegration. Mr. Sedillo said US Marshals have assured him that their number one priority is threats to national security; they are not notified by the jail of immigration status and interviews are not allowed.

Capt. Mendoza noted that from his law enforcement experience most people end up back in the facility due to mental health and substance abuse issues.

Mr. Sedillo brought up the increased incidence of women who are pregnant and opiate-addicted. He spoke of the importance of life skills programs. "The average education for our inmate is 6th to 8th grade level." Warden Gallegos mentioned the restorative justice issue. Mr. Sedillo stated corrections now has more of a treatment orientation than previously. They call it "thinking for a change" which means treating the root causes and not just symptoms.

Chair Susman reminded the committee that not much can be done in nine days; health appears to be the biggest priority. He asked what other information was needed. Ms. Williams asked to see the reintegration model and the programs on offer.

Mr. Sedillo indicated that the Commission is concerned about the impact on families and what is being done with them. Warden Gallegos stressed family dynamics and educating the family about mental health issues – diagnosis, medication, treatment options. This figures in the IDT work. He added there are 61 volunteers that come into the facility and are involved in mentorship programs.

Capt. Mendoza said he would like to see the policies and procedures. Warden Gallegos said they contain mapping and how the baton is passed within the facility and it would be helpful to have continuity into the community.

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Mr. Sedillo said there is a big problem with high utilizers from Santa Fe County. Warden Gallegos noted that lethality increases with recidivism.

Chair Susman asked about non-residents of Santa Fe County. Warden Gallegos said upon discharge they work with the other communities that they go back to. The US Marshal inmates, approximately 13 percent of the population, is a different case.

Capt. Mendoza asked if there was a budget breakdown, for instance should the committee recommend increased funding for mental health. Mr. Sedillo said that was done primarily by staffing. Warden Gallegos said he has requested two additional behavioral health specialists for one to one therapy and group sessions.

Ms. Gonzales mentioned the schools as a model for case management and she volunteered to bring in information.

V. New Business (questions/concerns) by Committee Members

Ms. Williams asked about the status of the medical director. Warden Gallegos said the contract with the current medical director ends November 11th and they are seeking a new one.

Dr. Spencer asked for a copy of the committee roster of members. He also asked if the press should be invited to the meetings. Mr. Sedillo said the meetings are open and the media monitors what is taking place.

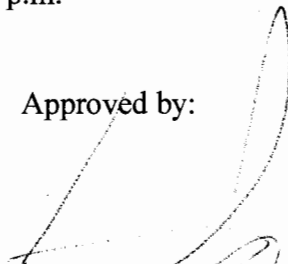
Mr. Sedillo asked if the committee felt his presence was necessary. Chair Susman said the Director and Warden should feel welcome at the committee meetings but should not feel obligated to attend. Mr. Sedillo expressed his appreciation for the committee's work.

VI. Schedule Next Meeting - October 10th at 3 p.m. at the Juvenile Facility.

VII. Adjournment

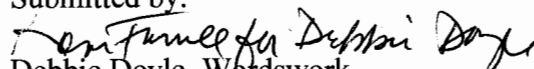
This meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:35 p.m.

Approved by:



Frank Susman, Chair

Submitted by:



Debbie Doyle, Wordswork

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