

1 **DOÑA ANA COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE CONTINUUM BOARD**
2 **March 26, 2025**

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4 The following are summary minutes from the Doña Ana County Juvenile Justice
5 Continuum Board meeting held on Wednesday, March 26, 2025, at 12:00 p.m., City Hall
6 Room 2007A, 700 S. Main Street, Las Cruces, New Mexico.
7

8 **MEMBERS PRESENT:** Cassie McClure proxy (CLC/ Mayor's Office)
9 Chief Vanessa Ordoñez (Anthony NM Police)
10 Sgt. Jesse Gonzalez proxy Jeremy Story (LCPD)
11 Thomas Zubia proxy Brian Kavanaugh (FYI)
12 Amy Himelright proxy Dr. Robert Lozano (LCPS)
13 Robert Nunez, (City of Las Cruces)
14 Marianne Hernandez (CYFD-PS)
15

16 **MEMBERS ABSENT:** Carmen Lucero (Drug Court 3rd Judicial District)
17 Lindsay McDonnel-Benatar (Public Defenders Dept)
18 Richard Johnson (CYFD)
19 Tessa Abeyta (DAC Sheriff Office)
20 Manuel Arellano (LCSCA)
21 Rev. George Miller (El Calvario Church)
22

23 **OTHERS PRESENT:** Lauren Shults, Sun News
24 Grace Telles, LCPD
25 Kayleigh Martinez, Peak Behavioral Health
26 Samantha Armendariz, YDD
27 Chelo Guerrero, DAC HHS
28 Pat Acosta, WDD
29 Lt. Joy Wiitala, LCPD
30

31 **STAFF PRESENT:** Sofia Hughes (CLC, Case Manager/Youth Services)
32 Eddie Pardon, (CLC Administration)
33

34 **1. CALL TO ORDER**

35 The meeting was called to order and recognized the meeting as having a legal
36 quorum.
37

38 **2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND NM FLAG SALUTE**

39 All stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.
40

41 **3. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

42 Board members, staff, and guests introduced themselves and discussed what they do
43 within the community. The discussion also included handling of the mass shooting
44 from Friday, March 21st.
45

1 Pat Acosta stated that Monday evening they provided a space at the Learning Center
2 for youth dialogue.

3
4 **4. CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

5 None.

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7 **5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

8 None.

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10 **6. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA**

11 Vanessa Ordoñez moved to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by
12 Marianne Hernandez. Motion carried unanimously.

13
14 **7. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - January 15, 2025**

15 Robert Nunez moved to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Sgt. Jesse
16 Gonzalez. Motion carried unanimously.

17
18 **8. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

19
20 **8.1 Update on Continuum Coordinator (Robert Nunez)**

21
22 Robert Nunez stated they received notice from HR and Legal department on how
23 they are going to moving forward with the continuum coordinator. He will reach
24 out to interested parties for the panel. Hope to set up interviews within the next
25 couple of weeks, and hopefully someone on board by end of April, first of May to
26 assist with the board as well as with the reporting mechanism and data collection.

27
28 **8.2 Priority Topics/Table Discussion**

29
30 Cassie McClure thanked everyone for filling out the survey. They had some topics
31 come back, but maybe just getting to know each other a bit more maybe better.
32 Suggestion to disseminate to little groups and discuss what each organization is
33 going through right now, what is needed in terms of gap. And then hip topics in
34 the next meeting a little bit harder.

35
36 Board broke into four groups for various discussions for approximately 10 minutes.

37
38 Cassie McClure stated her group talked about the idea for some of the younger
39 crowd we may not have the services under 12. Children are asking about what
40 does depression look like. What does stigma look like? Also the idea of what can
41 we do. Know where to get resources.

42
43 Chief Vanessa Ordoñez stated she is a police officer at heart and her whole idea
44 is accountability. They were talking about implementing curfews and possibly
45 having an ordinance to sanction parents if the juveniles are not in compliance.
46 There was also discussion of having an entertainment center that is feasible for

1 juveniles. Also allowing juveniles to display their own talent and skills possibly by
2 helping them get a job. Pat Acosta discussed her work with Father Boyle and his
3 work with gang members in Los Angeles. The ex-prisoners had two requests of
4 needing a job, and a relationship with their children. He started a bakery. Father
5 Boyle held each accountable by saying, "we're providing this, what are you going
6 to do for the community." Teaching youth how they can contribute. Also brought
7 tattoo removal to help get better jobs.

8
9 Easy gun access was mentioned, and that none of the kids would have died this
10 weekend would guns not have been as accessible. A person whose daughter was
11 there that evening stated even if there was a curfew like Deming at 10:00, the
12 incident happened at 9:45. She does not believe a curfew is going to be
13 supportive. It will be interesting to look at the data coming from Deming with the
14 curfew in place. Deming has a task for that goes out after curfew and takes kids
15 home.

16 **8.3 Program Updates**

17 City Council is working on a youth townhall, youth led. Conversations about
18 Amador Live for a teen center or Parks and Recreation.

19 April is Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month.

20 Yesterday was an event at the Convention Center from 10:00 to 6:00 which was a
21 success for the families and community members.

22 A crises center they have is only for adults at this time. They provide dental health
23 first aid for youth.

24 Community Advocates and Outreach just completed their monthly program. There
25 are a lot of other community events.

26 Working on a mental health program.

27 SRO are getting ready for their youth summer camp. The age is entering fourth
28 grade through approximately eighth grade. Capacity is 20.

29 Pat Acosta gave a handout. She highlighted their very successful February teen
30 dating awareness month, teen dating violence. High school they had 340 for the
31 rally and middle school had 230-some. Hatch community really works together.
32 This Thursday they will be part of the Second annual Farmer's Appreciation Night
33 from 5:00 to 7:00. They will be giving an award to Carlos Marentes for dedicating
34 48 years of his life working with farm workers in advocacy and rights.

35 **8.4 Items for Board**

1 Board members please be mindful that when input is requested to respond. Also
2 the programming, what do you want to see the board succeed, what goals.
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4 **9. ADJOURNMENT**
5

6 There was a motion to adjourn and a second. Meeting adjourned at approximately
7 1:08 p.m.
8
9

10
11
12 _____
13 Recording Secretary

Date

DRAFT