

1 **DOÑA ANA COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE CONTINUUM BOARD**  
2 **May 28, 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, May 28, 2025, at 12:00 p.m., City Hall  
6 Room 2007A, 700 S. Main Street, Las Cruces, New Mexico.  
7

8 **MEMBERS PRESENT:** Councilor Cassie McClure (City of Las Cruces)  
9 Chief Vanessa Ordoñez (Anthony NM Police)  
10 Brian Kavanaugh (FYI)  
11 Dr. Robert Lozano (LCPS)  
12 Richard Johnson (CYFD)  
13 Robert Nunez, (City of Las Cruces)  
14 Tommi Fisher proxy Marianne Hernandez (CYFD-PS)  
15

16 **MEMBERS ABSENT:** Lindsay McDonnell-Benatar (Public Defenders Dept)  
17 Mayor Eric Enriquez (City of Las Cruces)  
18 Carmen Lucero (Drug Court 3rd Judicial District)  
19 Tessa Abeyta (DAC Sheriff Office)  
20 Manuel Arellano (LCSCA)  
21 Rev. George Miller (El Calvario Church)  
22

23 **OTHERS PRESENT:** Pat Acosta, Youth Development and Diversion Supervisor  
24 Noah Ruess, Las Cruces Bulletin  
25 Chelo Guerrero, DAC HHS  
26 Lauren Shults, Sun News  
27 Brenda Ramirez, YDIO  
28 Carol Montoya, YDIO  
29

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

33 **1. CALL TO ORDER**

34 The meeting was called to order at 12:04 by Cassie McClure and recognized the  
35 meeting as having a legal quorum.  
36

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

38 All stand for the Pledge of Allegiance and NM Flag salute.  
39

40 **3. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

41 Board members, staff, and guests introduced themselves.  
42

43 **4. CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

44 None.  
45

46 **5. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA**

1 Motion to approve the agenda as presented, and seconded. Motion carried  
2 unanimously.

3  
4 **6. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - March 26, 2025**

5 Chief Ordonez motioned to approve the minutes as presented, seconded . Motion  
6 carried unanimously.

7  
8 **7. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

9 None.

10  
11 **8. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

12  
13 **8.1 Juvenile Detention Center/(Department of Health-TIPP)**

14 Pat Acosta stated in attending the JJAC board meeting they came and presented  
15 four goals. One of the goals that this continuum are going to or trying to is to start  
16 working and provide collaborative efforts to the Juvenile Detention Facilities. Our  
17 facility is close to the adult facility, in the same building. They stated they would  
18 like to work with Juvenile Detention. They have a program, TIPP which is teen  
19 intervention prevention program. These are youth that are referred by JPO after  
20 they have been cited by the courts with battery against a household member or  
21 police. There are youth that have relocated out of state and continue to give  
22 classes to them. They have forwarded letters. They are trying to coordinate a  
23 meeting with Lt. Paris to talk about services to be offered. Bianaca Padilla  
24 contacted Annette at the state level and already have an appointment for John  
25 Paul Taylor on June 3rd. They are trying to see the whole process after the police  
26 take the juvenile. There is no longer a contract with JRT. There will be a bar to  
27 move money to start the implementation of the juvenile detention facility services  
28 that can be provided. Hoping to have a Zoom meeting to vote the bar,  
29 approximately 30 minutes.

30  
31 It seems our juvenile detention facility is not one of the greatest in New Mexico.  
32 Suggested that Lt. Paris cannot implement anything and it would important to  
33 include Director Baker. And invite the county manager too. Most programming is  
34 in the evening hours, 5:00-7:00. Looking at peer mentors, certified. Board  
35 members that are interested in the tour to send an e-mail to Pat Acosta. A  
36 diversion program while they're waiting for whatever the outcome on the citation  
37 or charge. There are teachers teaching at the detention center who are permanent  
38 staff. Need to make the detention center better for the youth. If funding is from  
39 JJAC, it supplies the allocation for continuums and also supply allocations for JCC,  
40 Juvenile Community Corrections, be sure not a duplication. A program not being  
41 offered is working specifically with children that have been cited with battery  
42 against a household member. A challenge with the detention center is with the  
43 juvenile with mental health and if the juvenile is on medications. Chief Johnson  
44 has been told that if the detention center does not have the medication there, the  
45 juvenile does not get it. Pat Acosta stated working with centers in Los Angeles  
46 and El Paso they have nurses on at the centers so juvenile and their medications

1 are part of the intake process, so a bit concerning. TIP is part of the umbrella of  
2 continuum. The adult side of the detention center is contracted with (possibly  
3 Yescare) and they provide nurses and staff for the detention center. It is hard to  
4 get ahold of physicians, and there is a lot of red tape. Auroa of distrust between  
5 providers, JPO, detention center. Question on why a youth who attempted suicide  
6 was taken to the hospital and not referred to acute care from there and taken back  
7 to the detention center.  
8

9 The bar is because there is an existing amount of money from JARC from a  
10 subcontract with FYI, since December they are no longer part of the subcontract.  
11 In doing reporting and narrative, Bianca suggested that the most expeditious way  
12 is to utilize and putting a bar on that amount of money to move it to initiate and  
13 start this. Cassie McClure suggested writing up a scope of work. Important, what  
14 you provide, what you provide well, what JJAC would fund, define parameters with  
15 environment to be in and with funding source. There is a difference between  
16 adjudicated and pre-adjudicated youth. There are a lot of things to sort through.  
17 Concern about losing funds. The ideal would to have something set before the  
18 new fiscal year which is July.  
19

## 20 **8.2 Community Gun Violence**

21 Cassie McClure stated Mayor-Pro Tem Bencomo had a program she was looking  
22 into that was happening in Bernalillo. It is the Community Gun Violence  
23 Intervention Program. She is working with a Judge Racheal to see if we can  
24 implement something like that. Intervention in the form education, engagement,  
25 treatment, and peer support, group sessions at the juvenile justice center.  
26 Challenging issues young people face. Maybe put this on the agenda for next  
27 month too. Pat Acosta says this is a very successful program as it is collaborative  
28 with the community. There is work to establish a series of town halls, listening  
29 sessions, feedback sessions at various locations with various youth, in various  
30 parts of the community. Sessions will be facilitated by professionals specifically  
31 on the topic of gun violence. Hopefully to establish some funds to be able to  
32 implement some potential solutions and pilot programs. Sessions to be held at the  
33 detention center, at J. Paul, at schools in suspension, various schools, different  
34 classrooms, different grades. Talking with boxing clubs. Talking with people who  
35 run the unofficial street races at Love's gas station. Hoping there is a consideration  
36 of children who might not already be involved in events, i.e., D&D crowd at the  
37 library. There is data of how many children are coming into the detention center  
38 with gun involvement. Tomorrow, May 29th, Senator Heinrich is calling for Voices  
39 of New Mexico at 5:00 p.m.  
40

## 41 **8.3 CJCC/Teen Court**

42 Cassie McClure and Pat Acosta attended this meeting last week. They talked  
43 about there was no strategic plan so need to do so. That is in process right now,  
44 doing stakeholder interviews. They are figuring out what their purpose is.  
45

1 Pat Acosta that Teen Court was a good program. It was a pre-adjudication  
2 program but the woman that was running it retired and no one took over. There is  
3 still funding that can be allocated but it is specifically for Teen Court. It has been  
4 more than five years. Carol Montoya stated it was an alternative sentencing  
5 program, so they would have to say they were guilty and would be taken to a jury  
6 of their peers. The peers would decide the sentence for the crime. There were  
7 certain levels, more serious would have a greater sentence. Sentences were  
8 around community service and taking classes. There is funding at the state level  
9 for Teen Court. Pat Acosta stated she has heard good things. Also a Youth  
10 Summit would be good. Cassie McClure asked for a sense of the board if Teen  
11 Court is something they should try to focus to recreate. It was mentioned there is  
12 a Teen Court Association around the state. Carol Montoya was a volunteer teen  
13 attorney but she has family that went through the program and seemed to like and  
14 enjoy it. Some said it gave them an understanding of what it would be like to go  
15 through a court system. There is a national association too. Recommendation to  
16 be sure to not have too many programs and not have kids to fill the programs. Also  
17 the resources in existing programs may diminish - trying to go a mile wide and not  
18 a mile deep.

19  
20 **8.4 Update on Continuum Coordinator**

21 Robert Nunez stated they have identified eight finalists for the continuum  
22 coordinator position. The person will be contracted through the City as a fiscal  
23 agent managed by the continuum board.

24  
25 **9. ROUNDTABLE: UPDATES**

26 Open for input because apparently the chief association and the county and sheriffs  
27 are going to be meeting during a summit with the governor in mid-June. The board  
28 was asked if there is any input they would like to bring forward to the governor to  
29 resolve issues as a law enforcement community. Juvenile crime, anything that relates  
30 to specifically from the board here. E-mail anything to Pat Acosta.

31  
32 Family service division is growing and rolled out multilevel response. In the process  
33 of hiring in Farmington area first and give it six months to see how it goes. This would  
34 be diversion from investigations on protective services. They will be screened in  
35 investigation but naming it investigations lite; assigned an advocate to look at the case  
36 and decide whether or not this family needs a higher level of investigation or  
37 something can be taken care of at that level, to destigmatize having a PS report.  
38 Family support specialist are throughout the state and part of the continuum care.  
39 Working with zero to 18 age. Family support specialist are providing the safe care  
40 curriculum to parents for children that are zero to five, so a parenting program.

41  
42 More referrals for serious felony offences, violent felonies. More cross over cases  
43 which is where it is JPO and CPS involved.

44  
45 Robert Nunez stated Chief Story provided some information regarding Youth  
46 Prevention Institute, the signs of relationships to be held in Albuquerque July 9-10th

1 to equip professionals with knowledge and skills to cultivate connection and help  
2 promoting relationships with youth and protective factors across systems of influence.  
3 The board has been sent an e-mail on this. This is free.  
4

5 A mental health carnival was completed for teens in action. It went very well. There  
6 were different agencies do games with kids. Part of that was instead of talking to the  
7 kids interact with the kids. There were about 40 kids attended.  
8

9 Summer lunches are going to start. Also the summer internship program for high  
10 school.  
11

12 School is over. There is some summer programming, about eight or nine programs.  
13 Most of the programs are in June and some in July. They are collaborating with the  
14 City to do with SRO (middle and high school).  
15

16 There is an additional location on Amador/Lohman, the old Gamboa Casa de Autos.  
17 That will be the family success center. The building is 18,000 square feet. They are  
18 pulling various private and public partners together. This is based on a national model  
19 of family resource center. They are calling it a Family Success Center.  
20

21 Pat Acosta stated in April they presented at the Children's Law Institute. At that time  
22 members were recognized for their teamwork. In May she thinks Javier Guerrero from  
23 LC3 who works at FYI is doing an amazing job bring together with the important  
24 conversations need to have and more having youth be part of the conversations. They  
25 have a new diversion specialist, and another one will start the second week of June.  
26 This morning they met with Officer Ybarra and he wanted to know more information  
27 on runaways. Apparently there is more being doing for missing persons and  
28 runaways. From July 2024 to currently there were only eight officially charged with  
29 runaway offenses referred to the program. July 2023 through June 2024 there were  
30 nine. Sometimes the youth is in the program and then runs away, parents call and  
31 are told the youth is at the program, and so intervention with parents and child are  
32 progressed.  
33

34 Cassie McClure stated the CJCC also had initiative proposals. One was a privacy  
35 complaint data sharing across the criminal justice systems. Maybe the medication is  
36 in there. The other one is dispatch linked mental health system.  
37

## 38 **10. ITEMS FOR BOARD**

39 Call for special meeting, Zoom, probably later this week.  
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## 41 **11. ADJOURNMENT**

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43 Motion to adjourn, seconded. Motion carried unanimously.  
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Recording Secretary

Date

DRAFT