

1 **DOÑA ANA COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE CONTINUUM BOARD**
2 **July 30, 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, July 30, 2025, at 12:00 p.m., Branigan
6 memorial Library, Roadrunner Room, 200 E. Picacho Ave., Las Cruces, New Mexico.
7

8 **MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chief Vanessa Ordoñez (Anthony NM Police)
9 Councilor Cassie McClure (City of Las Cruces)
10 Brian Kavanaugh (FYI)
11 Richard Johnson (CYFD)
12 Robert Nunez, (City of Las Cruces)
13 Tommi Fisher proxy Marianne Hernandez (CYFD-PS)
14 Manuel Arellano (LCSCA)
15 Jesse Gandara, LCPD proxy Lindsay McDonnel-Benatar
16 (Public Defenders Dept)
17

18 **MEMBERS ABSENT:**
19 Dr. Robert Lozano (LCPS)
20 Mayor Eric Enriquez (City of Las Cruces)
21 Carmen Lucero (Drug Court 3rd Judicial District)
22 Tessa Abeyta (DAC Sheriff Office)
23 Rev. George Miller (El Calvario Church)
24

25 **OTHERS PRESENT:** Grace Telles, LCPD
26 Amanda Gonzales, LCPD
27 Sofia Hughes, P&R
28 Pat Acosta, YDD
29 Cesar Montoya, YDD
30 Brenda Ramirez, YDD
31 Mendy Fowler, LCFD
32 B. Padilla, CYFD
33 Wes Smith, LCFD
34 Jesse Gonzales, LCPD
35 Ryan Steinmetz
36 Carmen Florez, 3rd JDC
37

38 **STAFF PRESENT:** Sofia Hughes (Case Manager/Youth Services)
39 Eddie Pardon, (CLC Administration)
40

41 **1. CALL TO ORDER**

42 The meeting was called to order
43

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

45 All stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.
46

- 1 **3. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**
2 Board members, staff, and guests introduced themselves.
3
- 4 **4. CONFLICT OF INTEREST**
5 None.
6
- 7 **5. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA**
8 Motion to approve the agenda as presented, and seconded. Motion carried
9 unanimously.
10
- 11 **6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - May 28, 2025**
12 Motion to approve the minutes as presented, and seconded. Motion carried
13 unanimously.
14
- 15 **7. PUBLIC COMMENTS**
16 None.
17
- 18 **8. PRESENTATION FROM LCFD MOBILE INTEGRATED HEALTH**
19 The mobile crisis unit for the Las Cruces Fire Department started on 03/06/23.
20 They did a deep dive into the data to see who the program was doing. They found
21 a component that 25% of the crisis calls were from children under the age of 18.
22 They service the City of Las Cruces and Las Cruces Public Schools. Operate
23 Monday through Saturday between 8:00 and 7:00. There are two teams working
24 alternating shifts, 40 hours a week. There is a licensed medical social worker. All
25 of the social workers they have are LCSW. They able to pick up prior psych history,
26 triggers, assess for suicide risk, coping skills, different type of mechanisms,
27 recommend follow-up care after the incident. And connect to resources, food,
28 transportation, housing. There is a fire fighter paramedic part of the team that does
29 past medical history and vital signs. Receive only through a 911 system. No long-
30 term counseling or case management services. They do not respond to 988
31 directly, but there is a mechanism that 988 can escalate a call to 911. There are
32 six different call types, behavioral disturbances, suicidal ideation, suicide attempts,
33 overdoses, CRP, and death. LCPD does use this service if they feel it would be in
34 the interest of the issue at hand. Typically they service adults between ages of 19-
35 55. About 25% are over age 55. There are many calls for adolescents and so
36 they are doing more investigation into this. About 75% of the time they treat in
37 place, which is a testament to how they treat people and help deescalate the
38 situation. When they do transport to emergency rooms as needed. A case load
39 example was shown. They spend 1 hour 57 minutes per call. 87% of the people
40 they see, they would have ended up in the emergency department or detention.
41 89.9% of the population they service do not have a subsequent 911 call. A goal is
42 to reach 90% of all crisis responses, and they are at 49.4%, and that is probably
43 due to lack of foresight when the objective was made. They are wondering what
44 kind of prevention programs can be initiated for young people. Found 60% of the
45 population are Hispanic/Latino, 35% white/other. 55% were males, 43% female,
46 2% identify as another gender. Monday through Friday is consistent and drops off

1 Saturday. Time of day consistent throughout, but dips after 4:00 p.m., and then
2 5:00 p.m. and spikes. Showed call types. 40% of calls were behavioral in nature.
3 Suicidal ideation and suicidal attempt are huge. Also anger issues. Anxiety and
4 depression, and family disputes. Substance abuse is categorized under
5 behavioral. Location, 51% response is to patients in the home, 31% at schools,
6 and then other public locations and medical facilities. Significant amount at
7 elementary schools and high schools, mostly, half the time is middle schools.
8

9 Mendy Fowler stated the main calls, suicidal ideation and issues with
10 underdeveloped self-regulation skills. Mostly were identity issues, body image,
11 bullying, and family issues. Challenges at home are alcohol and substance use
12 disorders, parenting styles, and attachment styles, and social learning. Also parent
13 not being able to regular their own emotions being modeled for the child. There
14 are calls where the parent is escalating the juvenile. There is little access on ways
15 to learn self-regulation.
16

17 The MIH program is fully functioning, and the Light program is intensive case
18 management for at risk adults in the community. They work to be sure people are
19 not more traumatized, and do a "warm handoff" giving as much information to
20 where they are being referred to. They have an extensive list of resources
21 throughout the community. Question about collaboration with the County. This
22 program is solely within City limits and Las Cruces Public School district. They are
23 more than willing to collaborate with the County. Dispatcher education would also
24 be good. There are programs for domestic violence from youth. New MPI program
25 is looking into best practices. LCPD does have some social workers that are
26 attached to the community outreach unit. Project Light does not get called out
27 crisis situations, but do come in afterwards. They have done a lot of street
28 outreach working alongside many community partners. They do a lot of events,
29 education awareness, etc, along with special projects. They have community
30 patrol members who are volunteers to assist them.
31

32 **9. ACTION ITEMS: FUTURE DACJJC BOARD MEETING DATES**

33 Their meetings were on the third Wednesday of the month. Several people had
34 other obligations at that same day and time. It was voted and decided the meetings
35 are now going to be every fourth Wednesday at the same time. Location may vary
36 as the second floor is being used for municipal court.
37

38 **10. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

39 **a. Updates on John Paul Taylor tour**

40 This tour went very well. The follow-up contact person is Patti Vowell. Pat
41 Acosta has reconnected with her last week and she is excited to meet again.
42 An application was sent and will be shared with supervisor for approval, and
43 then forwarded. They have a tight schedule there because have to abide
44 by the school hours that the youth have to participate. They are proposing
45

1 going one day a week. Once a diversion specialist is trained in the
2 curriculum then more rotating. Pat is the only one certified for the classes.
3

4 **b. Updates on Juvenile Detention Facility tour**

5 Pat Acosta stated they were not hearing from them to set up a date.
6 Summer months may be difficult. They did get an e-mail from Lt. Parris and
7 meeting August 13th at 10:00 a.m. at the detention center. Only eight can
8 go for the tour, three officers and five people, the Chair, Chief Ordonez, Pat
9 Acosta, Robert Nunez.

10
11 **c. Update on Continuum Coordinator**

12 They are interviewing tomorrow, there are four applicants. Robert Nunez
13 stated tomorrow maybe five interviews. Hope to make an offer sooner than
14 later. When that is completed, hope to make all the connections with
15 service providers, agencies, different departments. This will be the
16 contracted position through the grant. The grant is \$64,000 for this position
17 specifically. The position will be 30-40 hours. Helping to connect
18 everything, including county. Three years consistently in Hatch, two years
19 consistently in Chaparral, and just started another group in Anthony.
20

21 **d. Immigration status concerns**

22 Chair McClure added this to open up discussion if this is affecting the
23 children. She is available to discuss this further, or what the City could
24 address. Brian Kavanaugh stated they have received trainings on what they
25 can and cannot do, signage allowed, restricted areas requiring a warrant.
26 There is a lot of information out there and he suggests any providers, public,
27 private, just really look into the source of the information to be sure within
28 the law of your entity, and also in protecting others. Manuel Arellano stated
29 that he wanted to get children involved in chess. In his 15-16 years he has
30 helped get chess up at schools around the City. He is currently working in
31 Anthony, Sunland Park, Santa Teresa. His concern is the safety issue with
32 the government. He does this all for free. He has made teaching chess
33 family oriented and family friendly. There are people that want help but
34 cannot afford. The community needs to stand together. Maybe this could
35 be a presentation topic for one of the future meetings.
36

37 **11. ROUNDTABLE UPDATES**

38 Representative Sarah Silva and Congressman Gabe Vasquez will be in Chaparral
39 hosting a community meeting this evening at 6:00 p.m. at the Betty McKnight
40 Center.
41

42 Family service division, they are still out in the community providing family
43 services. They just finished interviews for the eligibility specialist at the family
44 success center that is located with FYI. They have an open in-home service
45 supervisor in Doña Ana that has been open for about a year. Looking for a licensed
46 in master social work.

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School started on Monday.

The mental health carnival went well. A suicide awareness event with Teen Connection will be done on September 18th. They will start reaching out to different agencies to come in and do their session. There is a lot of fear regarding the immigration situation, as now it is being used as intimidation tactic for spouses and family members.

National Night Out is August 5th, 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. Downtown Plaza.

Carol Montoya is a diversion specialist with the program which means she can facilitate the groups and add curriculums. They do positive action, and life skills. And also social working aspect. They have a good team. There are a lot changes, but excited for them. Pat Acosta stated that Brenda Ramirez is the interim intake specialist. They lost both intake specialists.

Ryan Steinmetz stated over the summer there was an expansion of team programming that was an extension of services through both youth services and the recreation section of Parks and Recreation, with varying degrees of success. Did have programming from Tuesday through Saturday all through the summer for teens, extended hours. They are assessing the success of those. On the first and last Friday of the month at Safe Haven they will have a teen drop-in/hang-out program until 10:00 p.m.

12. ITEMS FOR BOARD TO RECOMMEND

Expansion of current services. Also given today's presentation with Project Light, as their objectives align with the purpose behind the continuum. Have this board consider including Project Light.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn, and seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 1:08 p.m.

Recording Secretary Date