

1 **DOÑA ANA COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE CONTINUUM BOARD**
2 **September 24, 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, September 24, 2025, at 12:00 p.m.,
6 WIA Building, 340 N. Reymond 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 Lindsay McDonnel-Benatar (Public Defenders Dept)
12 Richard Johnson (CYFD)
13 Robert Nunez, (City of Las Cruces)
14 Manuel Arellano (LCSCA)
15

16 **MEMBERS ABSENT:** Amy Himelright proxy Dr. Robert Lozano (LCPS)
17 Mayor Eric Enriquez (City of Las Cruces)
18 Carmen Lucero (Drug Court 3rd Judicial District)
19 Tommi Fisher proxy Marianne Hernandez (CYFD-PS)
20 Tessa Abeyta (DAC Sheriff Office)
21

22 **OTHERS PRESENT:** Pat Acosta
23 Chelo Guerrero, DAC HHS
24 Carol Montoya, YDIO
25 Jesse Gonzales
26 Grace Telles
27 Ryan Steinmetz, CLC
28

29 **STAFF PRESENT:** Sofia Hughes (Case Manager/Youth Services)
30 Dania Soto, CLC
31 Eddie Pardon, (CLC Administration)
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33 **1. CALL TO ORDER**

34 The meeting was called to order.
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36 **2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND NM FLAG SALUTE**

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

39 **3. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

40 Board members, staff, and guests introduced themselves.
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42 **4. CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

43 None.
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45 **5. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA**

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

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4 **6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - July 30, 2025**

5 Motion to approve the minutes as presented, and seconded. Motion carried
6 unanimously.

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8 **7. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

9 None.

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11 **8. ACTION ITEMS - NOVEMBER MEETING DATE**

12 Since the November meeting currently is scheduled the day before Thanksgiving,
13 do the meeting either the week before Thanksgiving, the 19th, or the week after,
14 December 3rd or 10th. Tentatively December 3rd was chosen.

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16 **9. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

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18 **a. Review Bylaws, Strategic Plan, Needs Assessment, MOUs**

19 With the grant there is the requirement to review the bylaws, needs
20 assessment, strategic plan, and MOU. The MOU is pretty recent. Need to
21 create ad hoc committees for each of the above. These documents were
22 revised March 2024 and approved in April. Cassie McClure requested to be
23 on the strategic plan. Pat Acosta, needs assessment and also the strategic
24 plan. Lindsay McDonnell-Benatar, needs assessment. Richard Johnson,
25 needs assessment. Robert Nunez, bylaws. Brian Kavanaugh, bylaws. Grace
26 Telles, bylaws. Carol Montoya, needs and strategic plan. Ryan Steinmentz,
27 strategic plan and/or needs assessment.

28
29 **b. Update on John Paul Taylor and Juvenile Detention Facility tours**

30 Pat Acosta stated it is going very well for the John Paul Taylor. All the
31 paperwork has been taken care of. There is new employee orientation that she
32 is signed up for October 3rd. And then two more trainings and once that is
33 done she will meet. The Juvenile Detention facility went very well. She will
34 keep the board updated.

35
36 **c. Update on Continuum Coordinator**

37 Robert Nunez stated that they have gone through the hiring process, written
38 process with candidates. A continuum coordinator has been selected. This
39 person's orientation will begin with the City in two weeks. They should be on
40 board immediately after orientation. When this person is on board they will
41 have a meeting with the executive board.

42
43 **d. Resources for families with immigration concerns**

44 Pat Acosta prepared some resources. She also has information from Otero
45 County, they have a list. Tomorrow is the Hatch Community Coalition meeting
46 and they also have a set of resources. Also how to make a referral to Catholic

1 Charities who has been very helpful with questions about DACA, etc. She is
2 impressed with the community of Chaparral as they have done a lot of
3 community activities and a lot of meetings to make their community aware.
4 They are doing classes at three sites, Hatch, Chaparral, and Anthony and they
5 are going very well. There is work going on for Santa Teresa, Sunland Park,
6 etc. With the all the flooding, it may be good to make Anthony the hub, and
7 teaching coaches there before they are sent to the schools. There are coaches
8 that have been trained in Las Cruces. The people do want it but have to be
9 careful in approaching the area. Previous County Manager Macias stated they
10 will continue to work with rural communities and there is money that the county
11 has.

12
13 **10. ROUNDTABLE UPDATES**

14 Pat Acosta is getting ready to do reporting with a deadline of November 1st sending
15 and uploading all the paperwork, surveys, etc. They are sending surveys to QR.
16 There has been pretty good response. Working on deadlines. There have been
17 a lot of formal referrals from JP. There is a big trend in the referral. The two
18 summer months usually go down but last year billed about \$7,000 and this year
19 billed \$18,000 just with the classes and programs. This month, for August, billed
20 \$21,000 just on classes, services. They are expanding. Going very well.

21
22 Cassie McClure stated she is working with Chief Story and he asked a question
23 about doing some fatherhood programming. She is having a meeting later this
24 week with him and a therapist who did it J. Paul Taylor at one point. It is very early
25 stages, but exploring some options. There have been some other programs
26 around it very effective.

27
28 For law enforcement, they are going from a local, on-call system. When an officer
29 wants to request attention they have to call the on-call JPO. Now it is going to go
30 to a regional. The on-call JPO will now be responsible for the whole southern
31 region. Calls will be received from Anthony, Las Cruces, Alamogordo, Ruidoso,
32 Deming. Doing D3, D6, and D12 all together. This will start this Friday. Hoping
33 this will save money. Every on-call JPO has the ability to look up somebody, facts,
34 history, etc. The response time will be the same.

35
36 Not operational yet, but launching mobile crisis team. The application is in to the
37 state, and expect to be approved within 4 weeks. Providing mobile crisis to the
38 entire county. Working closely with Project Light, the county, and response teams
39 that are out there. This will be routed through 988 and responding to behavioral
40 health crisis calls through the entirety of the county. There is a full team for 24/7
41 coverage. This is a hot line to first assess and deescalate and then link the person
42 to resources. Will be able to provide transport when appropriate and necessary.
43 There are ads on Disney and Hulu, and in theaters pre-movie ads, social media
44 various platforms. The community is getting top notch LC3 trainings. MCT is for
45 all ages, not just for youth. The youth model took over six months. There were
46 several hundred participants. There are several ways to have anonymity.

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Grace Telles stated they are getting requests and also for an officer. The next event is (*inaudible*) on the Block scheduled for next week at Valley View Park. It is interesting to hear neighbors' concerns.

Ryan Steinmentz stated he, Pat Acosta, and Amelia Corrales sat on panels for the last three days to do some hiring processes for vacancies within the YDD program for intake specialist and diversion specialist. They would like to get the vacancies fully filled. There were some successful candidates come through.

Finally got permission to open first bilingual elementary school. They will start classes soon. Working at integrating cultures. Bicultural issues would be a good presentation at some point.

Pat Acosta stated Saturday invited by the Victim Advocate division at the police department, having their volunteer training going on. They gave a presentation on youth services and what is in Parks and Rec to offer, including YDD. October 4th having Pride Night.

11. ITEMS FOR BOARD TO RECOMMEND

None.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn, and seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 12:42 p.m.

Recording Secretary

Date