



City of Las Cruces[®]

Doña Ana County Juvenile Justice Continuum Board Agenda

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THERE WILL BE A
DOÑA ANA COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE CONTINUUM BOARD MEETING
ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 2022
12:00 P.M.

CITY HALL ROOM 2007A, 700 N. MAIN ST., LAS CRUCES, NM

1. Call To Order
2. Pledge Of Allegiance
3. Welcome And Introductions
4. Conflict Of Interest
At the opening of each meeting, the Chairperson shall ask if any member on the Board or City staff has any known conflict of interest with any item on the agenda.
5. Acceptance Of Agenda
6. Approval Of Minutes
- 6.1. Doña Ana County Juvenile Justice Continuum Board Meeting Minutes For February 9, 2022
Documents:
[DACJJC BOARD DRAFT MINUTES 02.09.22.PDF](#)
7. Public Participation
8. New Business
- 8.1. Budget Adjustment - (Action)
 - Subcontract - Families & Youth Innovations Plus
 - Juvenile Citation Program
- 8.2. JARC (Update) - Aralis Chacon
- 8.3. JCP (Update) - Robert L. Nuñez
- 8.4. FY23 Contract (Update)
- 8.5. Continuum Board Member (Updates)
- 8.6. Continuum Partner (Updates)
9. Adjournment

If you need an accommodation for a disability to enable you to fully participate in this event, please

contact us 72 hours before the event at 541-2550.

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Date Posted: April 08, 2022

DRAFT

**DOÑA ANA COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE CONTINUUM BOARD
February 09, 2022**

1 Following are the summary minutes from the Doña Ana County Juvenile Justice
2 Continuum Board meeting held on Wednesday, February 09, 2022, at 12:00 p.m., La
3 Vida Project, 118 S. Main St., Las Cruces, NM
4

5 **MEMBERS PRESENT:** Honorable Samantha Madrid, Chair (DAC Division I)
6 Brian Kavanaugh (Families & Youth, Inc.)
7 Amy Himelright (Proxy, LCPS)
8 Dominique Gomez (Proxy, Mesilla Valley Hospital)
9 Tessa Abeyta-Stuve (Proxy, CLC Mayor's Office)
10 Sylvia Herrera (Drug Court 3rd Judicial District Court)
11 Brandon Morales (Proxy, CYFD-JJS)
12 Robert Nuñez, (City of Las Cruces)
13 Rory Rank (Retiree)
14 Marianne Hernandez (CYFD-PS)
15

16 **ABSENT:** Chief Miguel Dominguez (LCPD)
17 Susana Chaparro (DAC Board of Commissioners)
18 Lindsay McDonnel-Benatar (Public Defenders Depart)
19 Bill Rothengass (Retiree)
20 Chief Vanessa Ordoñez (Anthony NM Police)
21 Steve Nance (Doña Ana Community College)
22

23 **OTHERS PRESENT:** Matthew "Mateo" Ortega (Proxy, Families & Youth, Inc.)
24 Aralis Chacon (FYI)
25 Manuel Arellano (L.C.S.C.A.)
26 Diego Vallejo (FYI)
27 Alyssa Fierro (FYI)
28 Jolene Martinez (FYI)
29

30 **STAFF PRESENT:** Sofia Hughes (Case Manager/Youth Services)
31 Martha Moreno (Recording Secretary)
32 Thomas Edmonds (JCP)
33

34 **1. CALL TO ORDER**

35 The meeting was called to order at 12:07 p.m. by Ms. Madrid and recognized the
36 meeting as having a legal quorum.
37

38 **2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
39

40 **3. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

41 Board members, staff and guest introduced themselves.
42

43 **4. CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

44 No conflict of interest
45

46 **5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

1
2 Ms. Abeyta-Stuve moved to approve agenda as presented, seconded by Ms.
3 Hernandez. Motion carried unanimously.
4

5 **6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

6 7 6.1. Doña Ana County Juvenile Justice Continuum Board Meeting Minutes for 8 December 15, 2021 9

10 Mr. Kavanaugh stated he has a correction, on page 2, line 45, strike out “not
11 necessary the existing but” and add “and” after the word funds.
12

13 Mr. Nuñez moved to approve minutes for 12/15/21 as corrected, seconded by Ms.
14 Abeyta-Stuve. Motion carried unanimously.
15

16 **7. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

17
18 Mr. Rank said New Mexico Ranks 49th in Child Well-Being. Look at publication
19 “America’s Children: Key National Indicators of Well-Being, 2021”.
20

21 Mr. Rank said there’s a bill before the state legislation that talks about CYFD
22 getting funds for children in our county. I believe there should be language from
23 our contractors; FYI, JARC, etc. that we have programs in place, talk to your
24 legislators. Hate to see that all the funding goes to CYFD.
25

26 **8. NEW BUSINESS**

27 28 8.1. Continuum Board Membership Recruitment (Action) – Manuel Arellano 29

30 Mr. Rank shared a mission statement that was submitted by Mr. Arellano. He’s
31 involved with the game CHESS. Great way in engaging youth; what is their next
32 move, strategize, think through problems, etc.
33

34 Mr. Arellano said he founded the Las Cruces Scholastic Chess Association over
35 8 years ago. It is free of charge and based on education. Averaging 20 students
36 per class. Provide two (2) tournaments per year; it’s a fun environment, it’s
37 beginners against beginners.
38

39 Mr. Nuñez moved to approve Mr. Manuel Arellano as Board Member, seconded
40 by Mr. Rank. Motion carried unanimously.
41

42 8.2. Continuum Youth Board Membership Recruitment (Action) – Alyssa Fierro and 43 Diego Vallejo 44

45 Alyssa Fierro said I was placed in the system at a young age, my main thing in
46 life is to help others, give my opinion, my voice, and choices, at my job. Make
47 changes in positive ways.
48

49 Ms. Abeyta-Stuve moved to approve Alyssa Fierro as Youth Board Member,
50 seconded by Ms. Gomez. Motion carried unanimously.
51

1 Diego Vallejo said he was born in Deming, raised in Las Cruces. I have been a
2 product of the system at the age of 6 years old, skipping school, etc. In and out of
3 trouble. Being here today is a huge honor and milestone being in the presence of
4 a judge, and not for sentencing. My presence will benefit the youth.
5

6 Mr. Rank moved to approve Diego Vallejo as Youth Board Member, seconded by
7 Ms. Abeyta-Stuve. Motion carried unanimously.
8

9 8.3. JARC (Update) – Aralis Chacon
10

11 Ms. Chacon said we are focusing on youth voice and choice. Changes to our
12 program; we have increased our life skills classes, added; culinary class, voice
13 counsel, etc., we will be adding a girl circle soon, so when the youth come in, they
14 can choose what class they want to attend. We have seen an increase in services
15 we are providing to them. The youth are more in engage because they can choose
16 what they are interested in. We are also partnering with La Semilla and Friends
17 of Organ Mountain. Our services are open to all youth and adults in the
18 community.
19

20 Mr. Ortega said we also offer tutoring, trauma-informed yoga/dance, etc.
21

22 Ms. Chacon said we have seen a decrease in citations and increase in school
23 referrals. We are working with LCPS counselors.
24

25 Judge Madrid said that is good we are seeing school referrals and less citations.
26

27 8.4. JCP (Update) – Robert L. Nuñez
28

29 Mr. Nuñez said that we have been short staffed for the last 8 months. Ms. Telles
30 and Ms. Hughes have done and are doing an amazing job with current staff. 2nd
31 quarter update we are at 40% spent, the JARC is at 52% spent. Most of our
32 referrals are coming from JPO.
33

34 Ms. Hughes said we have had citations come regularly, had 20 citations last week.
35 We will be providing zoom classes for the county starting on Saturday, February
36 26. County participants are having issues with COVID and transportation. We are
37 providing services, being flexible and accommodating our participants and their
38 families the best we can withing our timelines of our program.
39

40 Mr. Rank suggested to write a letter what you are doing for the county, addressed
41 to former judge Macias, county manager or Susana Chaparro, Commissioner they
42 are both strong advocates for children.
43

44 Mr. Nuñez said that Commissioner Chaparro is a board member but had a
45 scheduled meeting and was not able to attend today.
46

47 Mr. Nuñez said that we are working on getting staff on board, Intake Specialist,
48 Community Educator, and Juvenile Diversion Program Supervisor. Also looking
49 at contracting a coordinator for the DACJJC to work closely with board members
50 and networking with various organizations. Working with our grant office and legal
51 to make sure our MOU is in place to move forward for FY23.

1
2 Judge Madrid asked if anybody had a chance to reach out to Judge Duran.

3
4 Mr. Nuñez said we had scheduled a meeting with her last month, and she had to
5 cancel. We will reach out to her again and try to set that up.

6
7 Judge Madrid said even if Judge Duran is not able to be on the board, at least
8 make her aware of the program.

9
10 Mr. Rank said having the District Court involved looks good not only national level
11 but state level.

12
13 Judge Madrid said Judge Marci Byers retired and they are going to fill her position.
14 The other suggestion that I have, if you or someone else can apply to be on the
15 commission that chooses the next few districts' judges. Those commission
16 meetings, when they interview for district judges, it's very insightful and the public
17 can participate. If somebody on the board, could try to get an appointment to that
18 commission it would help, even Mr. Kavanaugh. To have that question, what you
19 get to do when you are on that commission you get to interview those that are
20 running for that position, their strength and weakness regarding working with
21 youth.

22
23 Mr. Kavanaugh asked if there is an application process?

24
25 Judge Madrid said yes there is, go to the law school website, they have the
26 application process.

27
28 Ms. Martinez said Ms. Abeyta-Stuve would be a good candidate, because of your
29 role in the community. You represent families and children.

30
31 Ms. Abeyta-Stuve said she will reach out.

32
33 8.5. JJAC Statewide Continuum Meeting (Update) – Robert L. Nuñez

34
35 Mr. Nuñez said there is a reduction in continuums statewide, they are reaching
36 out to northern and eastern part of the state to fill some of those counties with
37 continuums. Funds are being limited, there are 18 continuums currently. We are
38 in our 2nd year of a four-year agreement. Having one more application process
39 before the end of this fiscal year. Will meet with FYI and the board to discuss
40 potentially additional funds. Meeting with JJAC tomorrow, February 10 and they
41 will make that announcement if whether they will have that application process.

42
43 8.6. La Vida Project Tour – Mateo Ortega

44
45 Mr. Ortega said from the color choices to the setup, program space, language you
46 see on the walls is very intentional. What we are trying to do and heard from
47 influencers, and staff is that one of our intentional strategic engagement efforts is
48 to minimize and reduce stigma and shame that is associated with getting help and
49 asking for help. This space is for everybody. Kids are proud in being here and it's
50 a safe space for them to thrive. Flyers are available to take.

1 Ms. Martinez asked the board if they would consider having a work group to
2 include, JPO, law enforcement, protective services, and FYI. Reason, we run two
3 (2) shelters, who take in high risk youth. What is happening across the state, we
4 are taking in 20 – 35 kids, they are called shelter shufflers. We are having to call
5 law enforcement all the time to assist with their behavior, arrest or cite them, etc.
6 Some are a danger to themselves, to staff, law enforcement, etc. The work group
7 would be to assist with alternative treatment, placement, etc. If possible able to
8 place on Agenda for next meeting.

9
10 **9. ADJOURNMENT**

11
12 Ms. Abeyta-Stuve moved to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Gomez. Motion carried
13 unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 1:02 p.m.

14
15
16
17
18 _____
Recording Secretary

_____ Date