

**DOÑA ANA COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE CONTINUUM BOARD**  
**April 14, 2021**

1 Following are the summary minutes from the Doña Ana County Juvenile Justice  
2 Continuum Board meeting held on Wednesday, April 14, 2021 at 12:00 p.m., via Zoom  
3 Webinar.  
4

5 **MEMBERS PRESENT:** Honorable Samantha Madrid, Chair (DAC Division I)  
6 Lt. Joy Wiitala (Vice-Chair Proxy LCPD)  
7 Brian Kavanaugh (Families & Youth, Inc.)  
8 Tessa Abeyta-Stuve (Proxy, CLC Mayor's Office)  
9 Sylvia Herrera (Drug Court 3<sup>rd</sup> Judicial District Court)  
10 Cynthia Ohrazda (CYFD – JJS)  
11 Robert Nuñez, (City of Las Cruces)  
12 Rory Rank (Retiree)  
13 Chief Vanessa Ordoñez (Anthony NM Police)  
14 Marianne Hernandez (CYFD – PS)  
15 Elijah Myers (Student)  
16

17 **ABSENT:** Shannon Reynolds (DAC Board of Commissioners)  
18 Lt. Genny Olivas (DAC Detention Center)  
19 Lindsay McDonnel-Benatar (Public Defenders Depart)  
20 Dr. Roberto Lozano (Las Cruces Public Schools)  
21 Jeanne Resendez (Mesilla Valley Hospital)  
22 Bill Rothengass (Retiree)  
23 Mike Tapia (Criminal Justice Professor)  
24 Captain Ernesto Parra (DAC Sheriff)  
25

26 **OTHERS PRESENT:** Tommi Fisher (Proxy, CYFD-PS)  
27 Julie Molina (JARC)  
28 Aralis Chacon (FYI)  
29 Steve Nance  
30

31 **STAFF PRESENT:** Grace Telles (Coordinator)  
32 Martha Moreno (Recording Secretary)  
33 Lisa Garza (CLC / Juvenile Citation Program)  
34 Sonya Delgado (CLC / Parks & Recreation Director)  
35

36 **1. CALL TO ORDER**

37 The meeting was called to order at 12:00. p.m. by Ms. Madrid and recognized the  
38 meeting as having a legal quorum.  
39

40 **2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**  
41

42 **3. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

43 Board members, staff and guest introduced themselves.  
44  
45

46 **4. CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

1 No conflict of interest  
2

3 **5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

4 Ms. Abeyta-Stuve moved to approve agenda as presented, seconded by Ms.  
5 Ohrazda. Motion carried unanimously.  
6

7 **6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

8  
9 6.1. Doña Ana County Juvenile Justice Continuum Board Meeting Minutes for  
10 December 09, 2020  
11

12 Mr. Rank moved to approve minutes for 12/09/20 as presented, seconded by Ms.  
13 Abeyta-Stuve. Motion carried unanimously.  
14

15 **7. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

16  
17 Mr. Rank said that New Mexico now has legalized adult recreational use of  
18 cannabis. Board needs to be aware of the impact it will be to our youth, not only  
19 Doña Ana but also the state. I have done research and Marijuana is more  
20 addicting than Alcohol.  
21

22 Ms. Madrid said do not know how we can address something like these.  
23

24 Mr. Nuñez said we will need to meet and discuss how we can address and  
25 implement into our programs.  
26

27 Ms. Abeyta-Stuve said that with recent changes the council will be having a  
28 special work session to discuss these changes, zoning, consideration, education,  
29 enforcement, etc. Mr. Nuñez that these areas are also be included in those  
30 conversation for the work session will very helpful, and I can help facilitate to make  
31 sure we are taken into consideration our juveniles.  
32

33 Mr. Myers said he applied to the United States Naval Academy and got accepted  
34 and will be going late June or early July. I think JJAC should be looking for  
35 replacement once I go. We have had conversations on this before, but I think we  
36 should start reaching out to kids.  
37

38 Ms. Madrid and board members said Congratulations and what an honor.  
39

40 Ms. Madrid asked Robert and Grace how we go about recruiting youth as board  
41 members.  
42

43 Mr. Nuñez said that they will meet with Elijah and he may have some fellow peers  
44 he would be able to recommend. We will also reach out to other agencies /  
45 organizations that work closely with youth in identifying individuals to bring onto  
46 the board.  
47

48 Mr. Kavanaugh said, I would also suggest advertising for the position (Youth  
49 Board Member) through; Youth Serving Organizations, City Departments, Parks  
50 & Recreation, JCP, etc. that might attract youth already engaged in a board /  
51 committee such as this. There is some benefit usually with expedite getting people

1 we know but there is some value in reaching out to the broader community and  
2 attracting people at a broader scale.

3  
4 Mr. Nuñez said that is an excellent idea and would also like to invite the south part  
5 of Doña Ana. There is not a limit, the age range is 16 – 24.

6  
7 Chief Ordoñez said she agrees with Mr. Nuñez, we should try to explore on  
8 advertising across the southern part of the county. There are a lot of youth in our  
9 community who I think would love to be a part of this. Do not forget about us down  
10 south.

11  
12 Mr. Nuñez said with zoom capabilities it would allow participation from youth  
13 throughout Doña Ana County.

14  
15 Ms. Abeyta-Stuve said that is a great idea to allow zoom capabilities for future  
16 participants. I think it is a lot more inclusive and be able to reach a broader  
17 network. Once that posting is made up, would we have access to that so we can  
18 share with our networks as well, to capture potential applicants?

19  
20 Mr. Nuñez said with various formats of social media (twitter, Instagram, Facebook,  
21 etc.) and school we will be able to reach out to youth.

## 22 23 **8. NEW BUSINESS**

### 24 25 **8.1. Nomination of Community Board Member – Steve Nance (Action)**

26  
27 Mr. Nance said I want to thank everybody for this opportunity it is exciting. I came  
28 to New Mexico; I am originally from east Tennessee. I was a Baltimore City Police  
29 Officer for 12 years (patrol, sex crimes, Sgt., homicide). Worked in Corrections for  
30 25 years. I was a Prison Warden in a couple of prisons and retired from Southern  
31 NM Prison. I taught at NMSU 3 years (Criminal Justice) and currently teaching at  
32 DACCC (Criminal Justice).

33  
34 Mr. Rank said that Mr. Nance also worked with LCPS / Community Schools  
35 (Lynn Middle School) and taught Street Law, part of the mentoring program that  
36 we had at NMSU.

37  
38 Mr. Rank moved to approve Steve Nance as a Doña Ana County Juvenile Justice  
39 Continuum Board member, seconded by Mr. Nuñez. Motion carried unanimously.

### 40 41 **8.2. JCP Budget Adjustment Request (Action)**

42  
43 Ms. Telles shared the breakdown of Budget Adjustment Request of \$4,200 on the  
44 screen for board members to view. We want to make sure there is money in the  
45 budget where we needed it to be.

- 46 • Decrease: \$3,200 from JCP II and \$1,000 from JCP II Follow-Up
- 47 • Increase: \$1,200 to JCP I, \$1,000 to JCP III and \$2,000 to JCP III Follow-  
48 Up

49  
50 Mr. Rank moved to approve Adjustment to Budget as requested, seconded by  
51 Ms. Abeyta-Stuve. Motion carried unanimously.

1  
2 Honorable Samantha Madrid, Chair (DAC Division I)  
3 Lt. Joy Wiitala (Vice-Chair Proxy LCPD)  
4 Brian Kavanaugh (Families & Youth, Inc.)  
5 Tessa Abeyta-Stuve (Proxy, CLC Mayor's Office)  
6 Sylvia Herrera (Drug Court 3<sup>rd</sup> Judicial District Court)  
7 Cynthia Ohrazda (CYFD – JJS)  
8 Robert Nuñez, (City of Las Cruces)  
9 Rory Rank (Retiree)  
10 Chief Vanessa Ordoñez (Anthony NM Police)  
11 Marianne Hernandez (CYFD – PS)  
12  
13

14 **9. OLD BUSINESS**

15  
16 9.1. Juvenile Diversion Program Supervisor / DACJJCB Coordinator (Update)

17  
18 Mr. Nuñez said we went through a hiring process for the Juvenile Diversion  
19 Program Supervisor and would like to introduce Ms. Grace Telles as the Juvenile  
20 Diversion Program Supervisor and DACJJCB Coordinator which was approved  
21 recently through the City of Las Cruces Human Resources Department.  
22

23 Grace said thank you for this opportunity and will continue to work hard.

24  
25 Board Members said Congratulations!  
26

27 Mr. Nuñez said he will send a press release in announcing Grace Telles as the  
28 Juvenile Diversion Program Supervisor for the Juvenile Citation Program and  
29 Coordinator for DACJJCB.  
30

31 9.2. Continuum (Updates)

32  
33 Mr. Nuñez said he would like to invite any organization / agencies to provide  
34 updates on back at school, how to move forward, summer, fall session, how can  
35 we improve our services and communication with one another, etc.  
36

37 Mr. Rank said according to legislation the broadband is an issue, we are last in  
38 the country, because of our legislators, Washington, and elsewhere. They are  
39 pushing in having broadband be a priority at our local level knowing our kids need  
40 assistance, etc. As a board we can write a letter to our legislator in reference to  
41 this issue. Trauma is also an issue; I have taken a position as Trauma Therapist  
42 assisting at the schools. We also have the boarder issue, there have been closers  
43 in Chihuahua and Juárez regarding COVID-19, need to pay attention to that issue.  
44

45 Ms. Abeyta-Stuve said this will touch on a couple of items Mr. Rank had said. At  
46 the city we do know that we will receive approximately 23 million of rescue plan  
47 and will be having work sessions. Coordinating with the county to make sure we  
48 are expanding to our county residents. I am now the New chair of the community  
49 school board. A lot of these topics correspond with each other, when I hear these  
50 types of comments, I am taken note to present and proud to serve with Mr.  
51 Kavanaugh.

1  
2 Mr. Nuñez introduced Lieutenant Joy Wiitala, she is the community outreach  
3 division.  
4

5 Lieutenant Wiitala said she is excited to be here. I oversee the community  
6 partnership unit; includes our School Resource Officers (SRO), and community  
7 policing officers. I am well versed, have been in internal affairs, police academy,  
8 on patrol, yes, many different hats throughout my career as well. Super excited to  
9 be here, I have always had a passion working with the youth. Excited to learn  
10 what we are doing for our youth and community. Looking forward in helping.  
11

12 Ms. Madrid said I believe everyone agrees and welcome. Honor to have qualified  
13 board members on this board. Thank you for taking the time.  
14

15 Mr. Nuñez said we a currently working on the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the 4-year term CYFD  
16 Grant.  
17

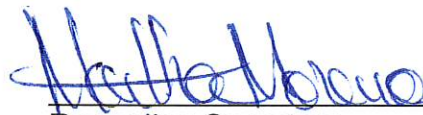
18 9.3. Next Sub-Committee Meeting – Thursday, May 13, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.  
19

20 Ms. Telles said that in the past we have met and have great discussions. In the  
21 past we submitted a questionnaire, received great information, but need to  
22 continue providing ideas,  
23

24 Mr. Nuñez said next board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 9, 2021 at  
25 12:00 p.m.  
26

27 **10. ADJOURNMENT**  
28

29 Mr. Rank moved to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Abeyta-Stuve. Motion carried  
30 unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 12:42 p.m.  
31

32  
33  
34   
35 \_\_\_\_\_ Date 