

NEW MEXICO SENTENCING COMMISSION

JUVENILE COMMITTEE

12 Noon
June 24, 2015

Bernalillo County Youth Services Center
5100 Second Street NW
Albuquerque

Committee Members Present	Committee Members Absent	Others Attending	NMSC Staff
Bob Cleavall, Chair	Leighann Lenti, (for PED Sec. Hanna Skandera)	Professor Yael Cannon, UNM Law School	Tony Ortiz
Jorge Alvarado	Cindy Aragon	Deborah Dungan, rep. the NM Supreme Court	Linda Freeman
Sarah Piltch		Grace Phillips, NM Association of Counties	Amir Chapel
Marron Lee		Steve Brooks, CYFD	
Todd Heisey			
Judge John Romero			
David Schmidt			

Welcome. Bob Cleavall, Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m. Committee members, guests and staff introduced themselves.

Approval of minutes for the April 28, 2015 meeting. The minutes for the previous committee meeting were approved by consensus.

Staff Report. Tony Ortiz reported that members of the Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (JJAC) recently met with Speaker Don Tripp to discuss the work of JJAC. A meeting has also been scheduled with CYFD Secretary Monique Jacobson to explain JJAC's mission and to get feedback from the Secretary.

Power Point Presentation Regarding the Crime of Child Sex Trafficking. Judge John Romero briefed the committee members on federal laws regarding human trafficking, including the Trafficking Victims Protection Act and the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act. Judge Romero distributed hand-outs that described the key provisions of these federal laws. Next, Judge Romero shared a power point presentation he has created on the subject of domestic child sex trafficking. He shared his hope that information in the presentation will help justice professionals to identify children at risk of sex trafficking and explore how child welfare and

juvenile justice involvement may contribute to the vulnerability of children. He discussed common myths and misconceptions regarding domestic child sex trafficking, and stressed that it is an activity that is prevalent in America. He also noted that sexual trafficking of children is a commercial activity and that children who are involved are victims, not prostitutes. Experts suggest that there are at least 100,000 children who are victims of sexual trafficking in the USA, and that another 325,000 children are at risk of becoming victims. Those same experts also caution that those numbers only reflect the tip of an iceberg. Judge Romero closed his presentation with a reference to a book entitled “Girls Like Us” (Rachel Lloyd). During the ensuing discussion, the following issues and topics were raised:

- Safe Harbor laws have been enacted in several states. Federal legislation includes financial incentives for states to enact Safe Harbor laws, which discourage prosecution of minors for prostitution and encourage the provision of services to children who are victims of sexual trafficking;

- Are children in New Mexico being charged with prostitution? If so, the cases are misdemeanors and are likely handled informally;

- In New Mexico and other states, truck stops are used as sites for sexual trafficking of children; and

- It was suggested that the Juvenile Committee craft a memorial on the subject of child sex trafficking and how to identify victims of trafficking and improve services to them.

Judge John Romero will send electronic copies of his power point presentation and other documents to committee staff and those documents will be transmitted to all Juvenile Committee members.

Briefing on the Memorandum of Understanding Between the Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD), the New Mexico Association of Counties (NMAC) and the New Mexico Supreme Court (NMSC) to Establish the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) Statewide Leadership Team. Grace Phillips (NMAC), Steve Brooks (CYFD and Deborah Dungan (NMSC) briefed the committee regarding the memorandum of understanding. Ms. Phillips noted that the MOU sets forth the respective responsibilities of the parties. Among its duties, the NMAC will engage and assist in training and educating county leaders regarding JDAI principles and processes and how they positively impact public safety. Steve Brooks described CYFD’s duties pursuant to the MOU, including serving as a liaison between the Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (JJAC), JJAC local continuum boards, and the Annie E. Casey Foundation. Deborah Dungan stated that the NM Supreme’s Court’s duties under the MOU will include working with district court judges and court staff to evaluate juvenile case processes to ensure consistency and compliance with JDAI principles. All the presenters emphasized that it will be a long-term, incremental effort that will begin with juvenile justice professionals in San Juan county. During the ensuing discussion, it was noted that collaboration with the Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee will be critical, as JJAC reviews grant applications from counties and makes recommendations to the CYFD Secretary regarding funding of programs that serve as alternatives to detention.

Before the meeting closed, Jorge Alvarado expressed his concern regarding the suspension of sports programs at the Youth Diagnostic and Detention Center in Albuquerque. Following a discussion regarding the merits of the sports program, it was agreed that the committee will ask for an update on the suspension.

Next meeting. The next meeting will be held on September 16, 2015, at 11.00 a.m.

Adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 2.25 p.m.