

NEW MEXICO SENTENCING COMMISSION

JUVENILE COMMITTEE

11:00 a.m.
May 22, 2018

John E. Brown Juvenile Justice Center, Chama Conference Room
5100 Second St. NW, Albuquerque, NM

Committee Members Present	Committee Members Absent	Others Attending	NMSC Staff
Bob Cleavall (NMSC), Chair	Marron Lee (NMSC)	George Davis (UNM)	Linda Freeman
Hon. Marci Beyer (DMCJA) (by phone)	Cindy Aragon (State Bar)	Nick Costales (CYFD)	Douglas Carver
Jim Cowan (for CYFD)	Mark Donatelli, (Speaker)	Hon. William Parnall (Children's Court)	Conner Tuttle
Diane Garcia (NMDAA)	Sheriff Manuel Gonzales III (NMAC)		
April Land (UNMSOL)	Hon. Marie Ward		
Traci Neff (NMAC)			
Angela "Spence" Pacheco (Speaker)			
Dave Richter (LOPD)			
David Schmidt (Pro Tem)			

Welcome. Bob Cleavall, Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:09 a.m. Committee members, guests and staff introduced themselves.

Approval of Minutes for the March 15, 2018 meeting. The minutes for the previous committee meeting were approved by consensus.

Staff Report. NMSC Executive Director Linda Freeman informed the committee that on May 17, 2018, she had made a presentation to the HJM 16 criminal justice reform task force alongside the New Mexico Corrections Department and the Department of Public Safety, concerning arrest data and correctional data. She will be giving a similar presentation to the Legislature's Courts, Corrections and Justice Committee on May 30.

Overview of CYFD Juvenile Community Corrections Program. Louis Pacias, the Juvenile Community Corrections Program manager for the Children, Youth, and Families Department (CYFD), presented an overview of the CYFD Juvenile Community Corrections program. The program is based in Section 33-9A-1 NMSA 1978, the Juvenile Community Corrections Act.

The first child served through the program was in 1984. At that time, the focus was institutional diversion, to keep children out of Springer and the Youth Diagnostic and Detention Center. The Juvenile Community Corrections program has deep roots in the community. Initially, most of the staff was counsellors who conducted home visits. In the 1990s a shift was made to more intensive supervision, with a focus on more serious youthful offenders. Through the 2000s the program was run like probation, but then there was a shift of focus to life skills. The program was no longer an arm of probation, but performed home checks and focused on social skills. Programming included activities such as camping, fishing, birdwatching, attending baseball games, and community gardening.

The focus of Juvenile Community Corrections had grown to emphasize evidence-based programming. In Albuquerque, PB&J Family Services provide life skills training and a nurtured parents curriculum. Also offered is victim/offender mediation. Other sites use talking circles, healing circles, and justice circles, which help the child to learn about the harm that has been committed and how to make that harm okay. Training has begun in victim/offender mediation conferencing. The program is also exploring a reentry circle at one of the facilities, and is working regionally on how to make supervised release more positive and fruitful for the client and the community. The idea is to get more children on supervised release earlier. The J. Paul Taylor Center has introduced the Annie E. Casey life skills program on the units, with an assessment conducted at the beginning and the end to track improvements, including whether confidence level measures have increased. Overall, last year 350 children received the life skills assessments, which was a good number given the circumstances. When the behavioral health crisis hit the state, many providers were lost. At present there are providers in every county aside from Los Alamos, which has very few children. Only Guadalupe County was not served in FY 19, but that county should be served by FY 20.

The Juvenile Community Corrections program has a number of performance outcomes that they are tracking. Some of the key ones include:

- Improvement in academic performance and life skills program completion – the goal is a 75 percent success rate, but the present rate is between 50% and 60%;
- Increased gender-specific programming, such as a girls circle or council;
- Achieving a 75 percent satisfaction rate on the services provided – the program is hitting that mark. In fact, last year only one family said they were not satisfied with the services provided.

In conclusion, Mr. Pacias noted that the Juvenile Community Corrections program is now looking at the bigger picture of a child's welfare, including what is happening in the child's home. Every child has a service plan, with a focus on needed life skills and what is needed in the home.

Members of the committee asked Mr. Pacias about and discussed at what stage of the justice system process did the Juvenile Community Corrections program began its interaction with a child, the target population of children, issues surrounding referrals, and how widespread knowledge was amongst judges of the existence of Juvenile Community Corrections programs.

Discussion of 2018 Juvenile Committee Work Plan. The committee discussed the 2018 work plan. Chair Cleavall said that it would be good for the committee to consider meeting in other locations connected to the juvenile justice system, as it once did.

The work plan topics discussed included:

- A discussion by Dr. George Davis of the ADOBE treatment program for youth;
- A visit to the Desert Hills youth treatment facility;
- An exploration of the impact of the closure of juvenile detention facilities in the state on children in the juvenile justice system;
- Consideration of making some changes to the Children's Code, particularly certain issues concerning youthful offenders; and
- Examining the issue of children who are trafficked being treated as victims rather than delinquent children.

Next meeting. The scheduling of the next committee meeting was postponed until NMSC staff could coordinate committee members' calendars.

Adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 12:44 p.m.