



## Minutes of the Meeting of the Juvenile Committee

**10:00 a.m.**  
**April 9, 2021**

via Zoom

| Committee Members Present           | Committee Members Absent | Others Attending   | NMSC Staff     |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--|----------------|
| Bob Cleavall (NMSC), Chair          | Hon. Marci Beyer (DMCJA) | Tom Swisstack (AMikids)                                  | Linda Freeman  |
| Marit Andrews (PED)                 | Hon. Marie Ward          | Sgt. Steven Carroll (NMSP)                               | Douglas Carver |
| Cindy Aragon (State Bar)            |                          | George Davis   |                |
| Nick Costales (for CYFD)            |                          | Justice Irons  |                |
| Diana Garcia (NMDAA)                |                          | Hon. John Romero (retd.)                                 |                |
| April Land (UNMSOL)                 |                          | Erik Rivera  |                |
| Angela "Spence" Pacheco (Speaker)   |                          | Eva Buchwald (NM Coalition for Fair Sentencing of Youth) |                |
| Jason Rael (LOPD)                   |                          | Javier Rojo (NM Voices for Children)                     |                |
| Cpt. Chris Rivera (for NM Counties) |                          | Hon. William Parnall                                     |                |
| David Schmidt (Pro Tem)             |                          |  |                |
| Ron West (Senate Minority)          |                          |  |                |
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**I. Welcome and Introductions.** Bob Cleavall, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

**II. Approval of Minutes for the January 7, 2021 meeting.** The minutes for the previous committee meeting were approved by consensus.

**III. Staff Report.**

Linda Freeman, Executive Director, NMSC, informed the committee of work the staff was doing related to juvenile justice. Staff is working on a juvenile competency study, in partnership with CYFD, and will be able

to finish the study once certain details regarding access to data are resolved. Additionally, NMSC staff are working with the First Judicial District Attorney's Office studying a juvenile diversion program. Douglas Carver, Deputy Director, NMSC, noted that HB 183, the juvenile fines and fees abolition bill drafted by the committee, had been passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor.

#### **IV. Drag Racing on Albuquerque Streets.**

Sergeant Steven Carroll, New Mexico State Police (NMSP), began his presentation by noting that drag racing was one of the top two citizen complaints in the Albuquerque metropolitan area. NMSP has developed an operation plan to address the problem. They have run it two times and cited over 200 people. The vast majority of people cited were under 25 (80%), and over 10% were under 18. He noted that there was a huge uptick in drag racing after Covid hit, and a big increase in accidents. As part of this plan there have been citations in Metropolitan Court for spectating at a drag racing event. The objective is to have those who want to race do so in a safe manner, on a drag racing strip. Sgt. Carroll also informed the committee that NMSP will be conducting further sweeps in conjunction with the Albuquerque Police Department and the Bernalillo County Sheriff's Office (BCSO). The citations all go to Metropolitan Court as they are based on a city ordinance.

Captain Chris Rivera, BCSO, informed the committee that his department was dealing with drag racing as well, partnering with neighborhood associations and developers on increased patrols of problem areas. As the state statute is vague, BCSO has focused on deterrence.

Members of the committee asked questions about and discussed the areas in which drag racing takes place, state statutes that might cover this behavior, whether there was an effort to strengthen the state statutes, and whether there had been challenges to the constitutionality of the spectating ordinance.

#### **V. Residential Treatment for Juvenile Offenders.**

Tom Swisstack, Board of Trustees, AMIkids Sandoval, gave the committee an update on the work of AMIkids. He noted that AMIkids had been in operation at the former Federal facility in Cuba for close to two years. Additionally, they have taken over operations at the San Juan County juvenile facility, which holds 13 people. AMIkids has also put in a bid in Bernalillo County for family functional therapy. Finally, AMIkids is about to open a transitional living facility for 10 to 15 young people; and has sent a letter of commitment for a young parent program that would serve adolescent parents and young adults who are expecting. To support these efforts, AMIkids has been working with the University of New Mexico and Central New Mexico Community College to connect their clients with appropriate specialists. The overarching goal is to get their clients established in an integrated system in order to get juvenile justice-involved children adjusted and re-integrated.

Members of the committee asked questions about and discussed partnerships between AMIkids and the Children, Youth, and Families Department; the number of children treated in each facility or with each initiative; whether AMIkids followed their clients after they left their programs; details about the transitional living program; community involvement in their programming, especially the trauma-based programming; what the scope of AMIkids services was compared to the level of need in the community; and how AMIkids catered to young women as well as young men.

#### **VI. Juvenile Committee 2021 Work Plan.**

Chair Cleavall opened this discussion by noting that the committee used to travel and visit programs, and he hoped to get back to that at some point this year. He invited members of the committee to let him know if

there were programs in the state that they would like to visit, and if they had any ideas for an agenda. He said that he was interested in examining the lack of resources in the state and what needs were. David Schmidt stated that he hoped the committee would continue its work on juvenile fines and fees reform; additionally, he hoped the committee would look at issues surrounding juvenile life in prison. Diana Garcia, Children's Court Attorney, Second Judicial District, stated that she was interested in visiting La Plazita Institute when that is possible. Cindy Aragon recommend that the committee look at opioid issues among the state's juvenile population and related issues concerning homelessness. Erik Rivera suggested that the committee look at transitional and diversion programs, and ways to re-engage juvenile justice-involved individuals with education and vocational opportunities.

**VII. Next Meeting.** The committee scheduled its next meeting for May 18, 2021.

**VIII. Adjourn.** The meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

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