

# NEW MEXICO SENTENCING COMMISSION

## JUVENILE COMMITTEE

11:30 a.m.  
June 30, 2017

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, Chair	Cindy Aragon	Ted Martinez	Linda Freeman
Marron Lee	Mark Donatelli	John Schoeppner	Conner Tuttle
Nick Costales, CYFD	David Schmidt	Hon. Marie Ward	
Jason Rael, LOPD		Hon. William Parnall	
Hon. John Romero		Charles E. Neelley, Jr. Chief Children's Court Attorney	
April Land		Cynthia Tessman, Children's Court Attorney	
Spence Pacheco			
Sheriff Gonzales			

**Welcome.** Bob Cleavall, Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m. Committee members, guests and staff introduced themselves.

**Approval of minutes for the April 20, 2017 meeting.** The minutes for the previous committee meeting were approved by consensus.

**Staff Report.** Linda Freeman reminded members about the upcoming meeting on 7/13/17 with the Council of State Governments regarding the Statewide Juvenile Justice Improvement Initiative.

### **Children's Court Docket Second Judicial District Court:**

Linda Freeman explained that this meeting was to open a dialogue between the members of the committee, judges, and children court attorneys over concerns about the growth in the abuse and neglect cases and the impact this increase has on the Court's calendar. Specifically, this meeting was to brainstorm and offer assistance in addressing a critical need that is affecting both delinquency and abuse and neglect matters.

It was acknowledged that the system is currently under significant stress, and there is a need to look at best practices to assist in managing the growth of abuse and neglect cases with limited resources. It was agreed that the increase in abuse and neglect cases is having a negative impact on resource availability in delinquency matters. Suggested modifications to the abuse and neglect practice included:

1. Exploring the use of default judgments in abuse and neglect hearings
2. Increased use of service by publication
3. An addition of a trailing docket
4. Better consolidation of delinquency matters and abuse and neglect cases
5. Docket calls and calendar coordination
6. The need for a new judge and judicial space
7. The need to open abuse and neglect proceedings to the public

Further discussion involved how to be informed on best practices and the role the NMSC could have in assisting the Court and this committee. Recognizing the stress on the system, the Court reported that it has proactively been holding “brown-bag” luncheons with attorneys whose practice include abuse and neglect to determine any needed changes. There was a commitment to increased collaboration between CYFD, attorneys and judges in cases that crossover delinquency and abuse and neglect systems. Additional information on case completion and tracking of cases within the system was suggested. The committee is open to facilitating further discussions. NMSC staff will continue to follow the issue and provide additional research collected on best practices to the committee and the court.

**Next meeting.** The next committee meeting will be held on July 13, 2017, at 11.00 a.m.

**Adjourn.** The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.