

NEW MEXICO SENTENCING COMMISSION

JUVENILE COMMITTEE

11:00 a.m.
November 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 (NMSC), Chair	Marron Lee (NMSC)	Colleen Bultmann (BCSO)	Linda Freeman
Jim Cowan (for CYFD)	Cindy Aragon (State Bar)	Maria Griego (LFC) (by phone)	Amanda Armstrong
Sheriff Manuel Gonzales III (NMAC)	Mark Donatelli, (Speaker)	Kyle Hartsock (BCSO)	Douglas Carver
Traci Neff (NMAC)	April Land (UNMSOL)	Brian Lindley (BCS)	Conner Tuttle
Angela "Spence" Pacheco (Speaker)	Hon. John Romero	Felicia Maggard (BCSO)	
David Richter (LOPD)	Raúl Torrez (NMDAA)	Rudy Mora (BCSO)	
David Schmidt (Pro Tem)		Bryce Pittenger (CYFD)	
		Justin Roybal (BCSO)	
		Trevor Weeks (BCSO)	
		Sam White (BCSO)	

Welcome. Bob Cleavall, Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:15 a.m. Committee members, guests and staff introduced themselves.

Staff Report. There was no staff report given at the meeting.

Juvenile Justice and Protective Services. Maria Griego of the Legislative Finance Committee presented on *Leveraging Evidence-Based Programs to Improve Behavioral Health Outcomes for Children*, with additional input from Bryce Pittenger, Director of the Behavioral Health Services Division of CYFD. Ms. Griego, appearing telephonically, worked through PowerPoint slides for her presentation. This presentation was a continuation of the presentation from the September Juvenile Committee meeting.

Ms. Griego discussed the goals for children's behavioral health, including an increase in the percentage of children who are healthy and able to succeed; a decrease in the percentage of children with behavioral health problems; treatment with effective, evidence-based interventions

in the community; and a focus on out-of-home treatment on highest acuity cases. As identified through Medicaid data, New Mexico currently has high rates of trauma, poverty and substance use. The most expensive diagnoses reflect the influence of trauma, including post-traumatic stress. The FY16 children's behavioral health spending of \$196 million reflects 31 percent of total behavioral health dollars. The three major areas of intervention are promotion and prevention; intervention; and acute intervention. Acute intervention, which includes residential care or treatment foster care, is the most expensive, but does not generally have successful outcomes.

Ms. Griego then addressed how to meet the goals for improving behavioral health outcomes for children. The focus needs to be on leveraging prevention and community-based programs that are known to work, including the good behavior game, home visiting, cognitive behavioral therapy, multisystemic therapy/functional family therapy, Juvenile Drug Courts, and high-fidelity wraparound services. Ms. Griego discussed in detail the scope of each of these programs.

Ms. Griego then detailed obstacles, including both the lack of the necessary people in the workforce and the problem that there is not enough knowledge about what type of workforce is needed; access to services, and the problem that there is not enough data on what services are required; the lack of data on whether certain protocols are effective and whether evidence-based programs are being provided with fidelity; and the need for evaluation of programs, especially home-grown programs.

The steps needed to achieve positive behavioral health outcomes for children include having a focus on children in the state in the next Behavioral Health Collaborative strategic plan; implementing the plan, including identifying needed measures and data sharing mechanisms, fidelity checks, program evaluations, facilitating stakeholder communication, addressing system barriers, and maximizing braided funding; and monitoring results, including creating a data dashboard and developing accountability measures.

Members of the Committee asked Ms. Griego for more detail about Juvenile Drug Courts.

Ms. Pittenger discussed *Hip Pocket Data*, working through PowerPoint slides for her presentation. She noted that the Behavioral Health Services (BHS) of the Children's, Youth and Families Department is the behavioral health authority for all children in the state. She discussed the five divisions of BHS: Administrative Services, Infant Mental Health, Adolescent Substance Use Reduction Effort, Behavioral Health, and Licensing and Certification. She also touched on the monies spent by BHS (more detail is available in the PowerPoint).

Ms. Pittenger also described the work of the Community Behavioral Health Clinicians (CBHC), who are the main experts in their communities, get children services they need, and hold providers accountable. There are 40 CBHCs around the state, recently pulled out of the Juvenile Justice System and transferred to BHS. Ms. Pittenger briefly discussed the relation of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) and youth behavioral health, noting that babies in the system often have ACE scores of 4, mothers scores of 8. She stressed the importance of an intervention occurring before a child turns three years old.

She closed her presentation with a discussion of sex trafficking of minors in the state, noting that there was a Federal mandate to have a policy with Juvenile Justice Services. Special training in shelters is mandated to help identify victims of trafficking, and she noted that there was a need to

raise awareness and compassion. There is the problem of the lack of proper services in the state for this population. She also noted that there is believed to be approximately 150 New Mexico children trafficked out of the state.

Approval of minutes for the September 14, 2017 meeting. The minutes for the previous committee meeting were approved by consensus.

Bernalillo County GHOST Unit and Special Victims Unit. Sheriff Manuel Gonzales and officers from the Bernalillo County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) presented on these topics. Sheriff Gonzales noted that there were three units specifically concerned with crimes against children – the Special Victims Unit, which focuses on child abuse and neglect; the GHOST Unit, which focuses on internet crimes against children and trafficking; and the School Resource Officers working with the schools.

First, Sheriff Gonzales discussed how the School Resource Officers were initially financed through a Federal grant, but the BCSO decided to maintain the program so that they could develop relationships with youth in the community.

Officers from the BCSO discussed the mission of the School Resource Officers, to work in a problem-solving partnership with school officials, parents, and the community. There are at present eight School Resource Officer deputies in various parts of the county, two in the North Valley, one in the East Mountains, and five in the South Valley. These officers come into contact with approximately 7,500 students on a daily basis across all campuses. They discussed the Gang Resistance Education And Training (G.R.E.A.T.) programs and the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) programs that the officers conduct in the schools. They also noted that the officers provide a uniform presence in the schools, which builds rapport, provides safety, assists in resolving conflicts and other benefits.

In response to committee questions, Sheriff Gonzales noted that he would like to get a deputy in each school, if funding could be found. Lieutenant Sam White of BCSO also noted that this is a specialty position, and that the officers who wish to participate have to test for it and go through a screening, as this is more of a mentoring role than one of a street cop.

Detective Kyle Hartsock then discussed the BCSO GHOST Unit and its work with child victims of human trafficking. He noted that the GHOST Unit did not exist until monies came available three years prior. There are 400 reports a year of runaways, and 4,000 homeless children in the 11 to 17 year old age range in Albuquerque. Children who are trafficked all have severe abuse and neglect from infancy, and thus these children need to be stabilized in a safe environment, and set up to become more resilient.

The work of the GHOST Unit is data-driven, with the focus on putting the worst predators in jail. The aim is to use technology to get better evidence so that cases do not boil down to one person's word against another's. The unit has conducted some undercover operations on line and on the streets.

The unit uses a high-risk victim model, rarely arresting the youth for non-warrant offenses, even though they often are involved with drug use, theft, and other crimes. The focus is on their home situation, and who is giving them things. Most of these children are running from something, not to something. When children are identified as trafficking victims, it turns out that many services

are not informed on how to work with the children in these circumstances, and go for easy diagnoses like oppositional defiance disorder. New Mexico is particularly lacking in appropriate kinds of shelters for these youth.

The unit has close connections with CYFD, and works with CYFD social workers trained for the special needs of these children, as well as working with school resource officers. There are ten patrol deputies who have received special training on how to identify children who are victims of human trafficking and provide trauma-informed assistance.

A challenge arises as many children do not self-report themselves as trafficking victims or even see themselves as victims, in a form of Stockholm syndrome. Better efforts and training needs to be undertaken to recognize when children are coming from a trafficking situation.

Members of the committee asked about the training needs. Detective Hartsock said that eight hours of training at the cadet level would make a big difference, and should involve training about precursors and signs, and what a trafficker looks like. Training should also be trauma informed, to better conduct interviews and get statements. There is also a need for long term care for human trafficking victims.

Next meeting. The next committee meeting will be held after the conclusion of the Legislative Session, date to be determined.

Adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.