

NEW MEXICO SENTENCING COMMISSION

JUVENILE COMMITTEE

11:00 a.m.
January 12, 2017

Bachechi Environmental Education Building
9521 Rio Grande Blvd
Albuquerque, NM

Committee Members Present	Committee Members Absent	Others Attending	NMSC Staff
Bob Cleavall, Chair	Marron Lee	Ron Lucero	Linda Freeman
Cindy Aragon (on phone)	Judge John Romero		Tony Ortiz
Nick Costales, CYFD			Amanda Armstrong
Jason Rael, LOPD			
David Schmidt			

Welcome. Bob Cleavall, Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. Committee members, guests and staff introduced themselves.

Approval of minutes for the October 20, 2016 meeting. The minutes for the previous committee meeting were approved by consensus.

Staff Report. Tony Ortiz summarized the Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee's (JJAC) FY18 funding recommendations for JJAC continuum sites throughout the state. The JJAC Grant sub-committee and JJAC staff reviewed all applications. Twenty-two applications for funding were submitted and the total requested amount was \$3,732,843. A total of \$2,765,000 was available. Applications were reviewed with respect to the quality of data provided, outcomes, and fidelity to program models. On January 10, 2017, the full JJAC met, discussed and approved the funding recommendation presented to them. The recommendation approved by JJAC will now be presented to CYFD Secretary Monique Jacobson for her review and consideration.

Sharon Stover, JJAC Chair, was recently appointed to the NM Sentencing Commission by Speaker Don Tripp. Ms. Stover has expressed an interest in serving on the NM Sentencing Commission's Juvenile Committee.

Issues regarding provision of educational services to detained youth in McKinley county. Cindy Aragon briefed the committee members on her concerns regarding a lack of educational services for youth detained in the McKinley county juvenile detention center. Youth from all regions of the state are detained at the McKinley county juvenile detention center. Currently,

there is not a teacher on staff and substitute teachers have not been made available. She also noted that the youth are being dis-enrolled in their original school districts and then are not receiving educational services at the detention center. During the ensuing discussion with committee members, the following topics were covered:

- the detention center should have funds in its budget for a certified teacher;
- county juvenile detention centers in New Mexico are required to provide educational programming to residents;
- the Laguna and Acoma school districts are in this region and there is a significant percentage of Native American youth detained in the McKinley county juvenile detention center; and
- is a lack of educational services an issue at any other county juvenile detention centers in the state?

At the conclusion of the discussion, Chairman Cleavall asked Ms. Aragon to follow-up with Ron Lucero and Nick Costales (both present at the meeting).

Issues regarding early childhood services. The members reviewed a recent newspaper article entitled, “Home visit program reduces costly medical services for newborns”, Albuquerque Journal, (December 30, 2016). The article summarized a just-published study conducted by the Rand Corp. concerning the First Born program. First Born provides in-home services in 17 counties to first-born children and their parents for one year to promote healthy child development. The staffing model employed by First Born does not rely exclusively on nurses, which reduces operational costs. First Born staff (social workers, child care providers, nurse’s aides) provide the new parents with information regarding breastfeeding, immunization, well-child checkups and child safety practices. The Rand study focused on 244 Santa Fe county newborns and their families from 2011 to 2014. Of those, 138 babies were enrolled in First Born and 106 newborns (comparison group) were not enrolled. A primary finding of the study was that the First Born-enrolled newborns were 33% less likely to visit a hospital emergency room than babies in the comparison group. The full study can be found in the on-line edition of the journal *Pediatrics*: <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/139/4?current-issue=y>

As an adjunct to the conversation, the committee members reviewed the provisions of Senate Joint Resolution 3, a proposed constitutional amendment to dedicate an annual distribution from the permanent school fund for the provision of early childhood services.

Discussion regarding juvenile justice-related legislative proposals. The committee members discussed the provisions of juvenile justice-related legislation that will be introduced during the 2017 legislative session. Bills of particular importance to the Children, Youth and Families Department includes the following:

- criminal penalties for battery of CYFD employees;
- revised procedures for instances when youth abscond during a term of supervision by CYFD; and
- dual sentencing for certain youthful offenders.

These measures and other juvenile justice bills will be reviewed by the NMSC’s Legislative Committee and comments on those bills will be recorded in the NMSC’s Bill Tracker.

Next meeting. Staff will poll the committee members regarding a date in mid-April 2017 for the next committee meeting.

Adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.