



**Minutes of the Meeting of the  
Juvenile Committee  
10:00 a.m.  
November 16, 2023**

**Bernalillo County Youth Services Center  
5100 Second Street NW, Albuquerque, NM**

<b>Committee Members Present</b>	<b>Committee Members Absent</b>	<b>Others Attending</b>	<b>NMSC Staff</b>
Cindy Aragon, Chair	Corey Adams (CYFD)	Tamar Ginossar (UNM ISR)	Douglas Carver
Bob Cleavall, NMSC Chair	Sheriff Glenn Hamilton (NM Counties)	Eva Buchwald (NM Coalition for Fair Sentencing of Youth)	Keri Thiel
Diana Garcia (NMDAA)	April Land (UNMSOL)	Shannon ??? (last name illegible)	
Hon. Alma Cristina Roberson (Children's Court)	Angela "Spence" Pacheco (Speaker)	Caroline Andrews (2 <sup>nd</sup> DA Office)	
	Scott Patterson (AOC)		
	David Richter (LOPD)		

**I. Welcome and Introductions.** Cindy Aragon, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

**II. Tour of the Bernalillo County Youth Services Center.**

The members of the Committee and others attending the meeting were given a comprehensive tour of the Youth Services Center (YSC). The members of the Committee also had a discussion with YSC staff concerning medical care, exercise opportunities, the food that is served to detainees, educational opportunities for those held at YSC, staffing levels at the facility, and other matters. Of particular note, staffing has improved from a 75% vacancy rate to a 50% vacancy rate; this is attributed to increased pay and the offering of \$5,000 bonuses.

**III. Approval of Minutes for the September 13, 2023 meeting.** Due to lack of a quorum, the meeting minutes for the last Committee meeting could not be approved.

**IV. Staff Report.**

Douglas Carver, Deputy Director, New Mexico Sentencing Commission (NMSC), informed the Committee that the budget request for the upcoming Legislative Session would include a request for two FTEs, one to

make permanent the staff attorney position, the other to help administer the crime reduction grants. There would also be a request to backfill the raises that have been given to state employees in recent years, as the Commission has had to absorb those raises as they have not been included in the standard budget increases to state agencies given by the Legislative Finance Committee when state employees get a raise.

Keri Thiel, Staff Attorney, NMSC, informed the Committee that there were 24 applications for a total request of over \$4 million in the round of grant proposals awarded the day before, with \$1.3 million to distribute. Chair Cleavall asked whether any were given to juvenile programs. Deputy Director Carver noted that the issue of grants to juvenile programs would be addressed in the amendments that will be proposed for the Crime Reduction Grant Act.

#### **V. Juvenile Justice in New Mexico – District Attorneys’ Perspective.**

As David Richter (Agenda Item VI) unexpectedly had to cancel, this item was rescheduled for a future meeting so the presentations from the District Attorneys and the Public Defenders could be paired.

#### **VI. Juvenile Justice in New Mexico – Public Defenders’ Perspective.**

As David Richter, who was going to speak on this topic, unexpectedly had to cancel, this item was rescheduled for a future meeting so the presentations from the District Attorneys and the Public Defenders could be paired.

*Further discussion.*

In lieu of Items V and VI on the Agenda, the Committee discussed a range of other matters, including why there was no policy on the use of suboxone at YSC; the prospect that there might be legislation in the upcoming Legislative Session mandating Medication-Assisted Treatment for detained juveniles; the prevalence of babies born with addiction; the creation of the Family Services Division in the Children, Youth and Families Department; the problem with the lack of programming for juveniles,, exemplified by the Juvenile Community Corrections Fund reverting \$1 million; and the status of providers for evaluations for juveniles.

**VII. Next Meeting.** The Committee tentatively scheduled its next meeting for March 5, 2024.

**VIII. Adjourn.** The meeting adjourned at 12:03 p.m.