



**Minutes of the Meeting of the
Juvenile Committee
10:00 a.m.
September 12, 2023**

via Zoom

Committee Members Present	Committee Members Absent	Others Attending	NMSC Staff
Cindy Aragon, Chair	Diana Garcia (NMDAA)	Nick Costales	Douglas Carver
Corey Adams (CYFD)	Sheriff Glenn Hamilton (NM Counties)	Gabriel Davila (CYFD)	Keri Thiel
Bob Cleavall, NMSC Chair	April Land (UNMSOL)	Bronwyn Neeser (BHSD)	
Scott Patterson (AOC)	Angela “Spence” Pacheco (Speaker)	Lindsey Jones (2 nd Judicial District Court)	
Hon. Alma Cristina Roberson (Children’s Court)	David Richter (LOPD)		
David Schmidt (Pro Tem) <i>(carrying proxy for April Land)</i>			

I. Welcome and Introductions. Cindy Aragon, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.

II. Approval of Minutes for the June 20, 2023 meeting. The minutes for the previous Committee meeting were approved by unanimous vote.

III. Staff Report.

Douglas Carver, Deputy Director, New Mexico Sentencing Commission (NMSC), informed the Committee that applications for Round 2 of the crime reduction grants were open. The Committee discussed whether the language of the Crime Reduction Grant Act permitted grant applications for projects addressing the needs of juveniles.

IV. Update on Juvenile Justice in New Mexico

Corey Adams, Deputy Director of Juvenile Justice Services – Field, Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD), gave the Committee an overview of the numbers of juveniles being detained or supervised in New Mexico. As of August 30, 2023, there were 88 clients held in juvenile facilities, which represents a slight increase over recent years, which have had numbers in the 70s or low 80s. There were 1,073 juveniles on some kind of probation supervision; probation supervision covers formal probation,

informal clients (those who have agreed to work with the Probation Office), and conditional release clients who have some sort of supervision element to their release. He noted that there were 772 cases statewide that were pending court action.

Deputy Director Adams informed the Committee that caseload averages ran from seven cases per juvenile probation officer to 11 or 12 cases for those covering clients on conditional release. He also informed the Committee that in FY23, the top five types of delinquent offender cases were as follows:

1. battery;
2. truancy (though, he noted, this is not a delinquency offense);
3. battery on a household member;
4. possession of cannabis; and then
5. affray.

Deputy Director Adams briefly updated the Committee on the formation of a new division at CYFD, the Youth and Family Services Division. Once the division is fully staffed, the plan is for absenteeism and truancy to be added to this new division. The new division will handle CYFD's families in need of services cases currently handled by Juvenile Justice Services.

Deputy Director Adams also discussed the impact of Covid on the juvenile justice work of CYFD, focusing mostly on how Covid taught lessons in new ways to manage the work. There has been an expansion in the use of technology, for instance using laptops to make CYFD employees more mobile, untying people from their desks. There has also been a continued use of Zoom checkups with clients, which has the added benefit of including extended family who otherwise might not have participated in a meeting. There has also been the provision of technology to families, telephones, for example, so that they can stay better connected and cut down on driving. Covid grants also expanded the ability to get food to children who were not in school for some reason. While it has been good to be back to in person meetings with children and their families post-pandemic, Covid did show CYFD that there was a wider range of options to help and interact with children and their families.

Deputy Director Adams further noted that some court processes are still virtual post-pandemic. There are presently only four juvenile detention centers in the state, which means that it can be a trip of hundreds of miles to transport someone, which has a tremendous impact on the youth being transported and the law enforcement agency and its officers who have to do the transportation.

Members of the Committee asked questions about and discussed the Governor's public health order on guns, particularly focusing on how it affected the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative and the use of risk assessments; caseloads for juvenile probation officers; detention for juveniles using a firearm in a crime; programs that might be available for juveniles who use firearms; and the impact that Covid had on youth development, particularly in areas of conflict resolution and interpersonal relations.

V. Proposed or Pending Legislation for Juvenile Justice.

Chair Aragon opened the floor for a discussion of any legislation concerning juvenile justice that might be introduced in the 2024 Legislative Session. Members of the Committee discussed whether to work on a bill to return to the former method of granting parole for juveniles. Members of the Committee also spent some time discussing the forensic evaluation process for juveniles, focusing on the number of evaluators and the increased reimbursement rates for evaluators. Chair Aragon informed the Committee that both of these matters could be discussed at a future meeting if Committee members wished.

VI. Next Meeting. The Committee scheduled its next meeting for November 16, 2023.

VII. Adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 11:11 a.m.