



**AGENDA**  
**VALENCIA COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE ADVISORY BOARD**  
**February 2024 - Minutes**

To be held in person at:  
The Valencia County Administration Building  
444 Luna Ave.  
Los Lunas, NM 87031

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**Tuesday, February 13, 2024**  
**12:00PM-1:30PM**

- A. Introduction & Roll Call – **Quorum met.**  
a. Community Member Introduction – If Applicable

Board members present: Heather Benavidez, Kaylee Jojola, Victoria Flores, Cassandra Kanyuck, Camille Griego and Randy Gutierrez.

General Board members: Jeremias Silva (Heather's proxy), Curtis Espinoza (**VC Sheriff's Office**), Concha Montano (**Program Evaluator**), Linda Montano (**Open Stars; Non-Profit**), Richard Lindahl (**Consultant for State JJAC**), John Giron (**VC Sheriff's Office**), Christine Arrellin (**Continuum Coordinator**), Deseri Sichler (**Magistrate Judge; Division III**), Val Gauthier (**Director of Programs for Belen Consolidated Schools & Supervisor for the Attendance for Success Program**), Heather Smallwood (**Childrens Court with DA**), and Rose LeDoux (**VC Grants Coordinator**).

- B. Acceptance of Agenda  
Heather entertains a motion to accept the agenda.  
Deputy Chief Kanyuck: Motions to accept.  
Victoria: Seconds the motions. All I's...zero no's.
- C. Approval of Meeting Minutes – January 11, 2024, JJAB Special Meeting  
Heather: Entertains a motion to accept the Meeting Minutes  
Deputy Chief Kanyuck: Motions to accept.  
Victoria: Seconds the motion. All I's...zero no's.

**D. Introduction/Nomination of Youth Subcommittee Member – Colten Robinson**

Jeremias: We are trying to bolster the youth in Valencia County, we have had a steady five participants and I know Christine has worked exclusively with the youth subcommittee members and have identified Colten Robinson and I will provide the video to you all to see who he is; however, the audio does not work. This will require a vote of confidence from the board so we can have Colten introduced as a youth subcommittee member. Then the county will be able to get him onboard with stipends for the attendance of any meetings and events he participates in. What I have here is a general form for interested youth - Why are you interested in being part of the Juvenile Justice Advisory Board (JJAB) Youth Subcommittee? And his response was I am interested in being part of the Juvenile Justice Advisory Board (JJAB) Youth Subcommittee because I want to observe what others are going through and see how I can help. This is good stuff to know that we have youth out there that care and have the mentality of wanting to help. Very good answer from Colten. The second question is "What is one goal you hope to achieve by being part of the Youth Subcommittee?" His response was one goal I would like to accomplish is to help the community get better." Over the years, as everyone has heard me talk, we want a robust youth subcommittee and the representatives that we do have are very like-minded; they are all about helping and community involvement. We appreciate Colten's efforts in engaging with Christine and the other youth subcommittee members. Now I will show you all his video even though you all will not be able to hear him. *Audio works in manager's conference room – Heather puts in chat that she can pull it up and play.* He is a great asset to the youth subcommittee as he is someone that we want to actively participate in for the next generation. Phillip is a senior and we want this subcommittee to be established with younger youth – tenth, ninth or eighth graders so that they grow together and address these problems together. During youth focus groups they can convey those community issues to us and during the Juvenile Justice Advisory Board meetings. Heather, I would like to pass it back to the board for a vote of confidence to introduce and vote on Colten Robinson onto the youth subcommittee. Heather: On the zoom side, we did not hear the audio, but I did hear it before the meeting. Can you please summarize what he said in the video for all of us on zoom, which would be fantastic.

Jeremias: Colten is a member of Belen middle school; he likes to play video games; likes to play basketball and he is interested in becoming a part of the Juvenile Justice Advisory Board youth subcommittee so he can help and address things with his fellow students to see how he can make a difference.

Heather: I just wanted to clarify; he goes to Belen Middle School?

Jeremias: Yes.

Heather: Oh! In the video he is wearing a Los Lunas Middle School shirt – good for him!

Jeremias: We are always open to having a solid group of kids that are representative of all areas of Valencia County to move forward. They are the ones that will be our seats sooner rather than later.

Heather: Thank you, Jeremias, and Mr. Robinson, for your application and your video. I cannot stress enough how much you want to join us and helping the community is its own reward and as Jeremias said, we need more youth voices and experiences to provide us with the input. At this point, I will entertain a motion for a vote of confidence to have Colten Robinson join our youth subcommittee group.

Victoria: I know Colten through YDI, so, I will definitely be the first to make the motion.

Camille Griego: Seconds the motion. All I's...zero no's. We are very excited to have Colten and congratulations.

E. Continuum Coordinator Update

a. Community Outreach – Update & Discussion

Jeremias: The youth subcommittee did attend an event/resource fair at Infinity High School in Belen, and it was pretty impressive to see turnout but also to see the engagement from the youth and the engagement from the parents. I have participated in many resource fairs and most of the time, the community is there for the knick-knacks like pens or goodies. In this particular event, it was awesome to see the engagement from the youth. I know H2 Academic Solutions had a booth as well as YDI – it was a breath of fresh air as there was a quest for knowledge. I had some great conversations with the youth and parents inside and outside the school setting. It was a very successful event. There is another event on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, Noelle can fill us in on. It is a Saturday, from 12pm to 4pm and the youth subcommittee will have a booth there and we will have a nice item to donate to the raffle table. There are two youths that I cannot recall their names.

Noelle: They are two Los Lunas High School; they are part of Lending a Paw organization that have a capstone class that requires community engagement and follow through in a project. They decided to do hygiene bags and a resource fair. This will be something that we will organize in the next coming weeks with our youth subcommittee meeting to get it all situated.

b. Completed Background Check with LLS

Jeremias: This is incredible; this is four years in the making. We have everything in place to allow Christine to be on Los Lunas Schools properties for fidelity checks. Heather, I hear you, this is great news to hear! It is unfortunate that is already February, and we will have to repeat the process again in May for the next fiscal year. Regardless, we have the contact person and are aware of the process and get it completed sooner rather than later.

c. Legislative Session Discussion – Jeremias Silva

o One Youth – Screen Time & Parental Education

Jeremias: This is something that I participate in in the grants side. During the session, I was blown away by “One Youth.” They are a non-profit from Taos, New Mexico. They are called True Kids One. Their One Youth movement was incredible to see because they are trying to educate their fellow youth and parents. In summary, this non-profit gets funding from everywhere. The youths’ mission is to address screentime usage and the limits as they are in school for 6 to 7 hours and then go home to be on screens again. They made it an initiative of the dangers that screentime poses. They have five representatives and each one of them had something to say about the initiative. This group also provides resources to families on how to implement parental controls on devices. I had a wonderful conversation with Mr. Sandy Campbell, who is the president of this organization. He has invited us, along with the youth subcommittee to Taos, to show us what it is that they are doing and how they got started. This is something I will keep the board involved with as we progress.

o Broadband Press Release – Free Internet for 150 households in Meadowlake & El Cerro Mission

Jeremias: We have received a \$225,000 grant from META to provide free internet to 150 households in Meadowlake and El Cerro Mission. This is HUGE. We will have applications available soon for

people to be a part of this free internet. The county will have a website and paper applications available. We will also have meetings at the El Cerro Mission community center and Meadowlake community center to spread the word. We anticipate the applications to fill up quickly but are hopeful of attaining additional funding to extend this opportunity. The free internet is for those that want to take advantage. Right now, the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) is available; anyone who signs up can be eligible for free internet so long as they are a recipient of basic government assistance. Application is super simple and easy for those that are interested. I will work with Christine to get this information to the board and anyone else who might be interested.

o Address the digital divide – Video Creation

Jeremias: At the same Legislative Session, I had a wonderful conversation with Maria Chaparro, and she is from Mamacitas Ciberneticas. These ladies work with Senator Ben Ray Lujan's office and have received funding for video creation and address the video divide. Through this funding that allowed the youth that were participating to create the video to receive a stipend for their time and receive training from the Video Creation staff in which they show them the editing capabilities and show them video feed and sound. The links that they did share with me did not work, but I have reached out to Maria to provide us with better links so that this group can be aware of what this opportunity is. Maria said that as soon as the video went live, it spawned a huge call from the community. Heather, it is 12:30, did you need to step away for your meeting? Heather: I do, thank you for being my proxy, have a great meeting and see you soon.

Jeremias: Let the record show that Heather did have to leave, and I will be the proxy moving forward. Again, once this video was released and sent to the partners, the partners felt the urgency to address the digital divide and provided resources. I think this is something that the youth will look into and is working as they are using it in schools. These are just some highlights that I wanted to bring back from the Legislative Session. Are there any questions or comments on any of the items. Hearing none, we will move forward.

d. Proxy designation

Jeremias: This is something that I wanted to place on the agenda for some time. I know we are all are busy and have our own jobs going on. In the event that you know that you are unable to attend, speaking more so to the executive members, a simple email to myself or Christine with a proxy designation will suffice but only on items that we need to take a vote on. It is critical that we have a quorum and so be it that we have a proxy. If possible, I would ask the group to keep that in the back of your mind for any meetings moving forward. Again, Jeremias is only one person, and I can only be a proxy for one person. In the past, I know I have been asked to be a proxy for more than one on different occasions.

Camille: So, for the proxy, would it be for someone on the board or in the office?

Jeremias: Yes, ma'am, most definitely. Are there any questions or comments on proxy designation. Hearing none, I would like to move forward.

F. H2 Academic Solutions (Update)

Noelle: We have a lot of program growth. Reception Assessment Center (RAC) program in Belen we have 78 open cases and are bringing on another person named Maria who will be assisted in the caseload. Los Lunas specialists are at a steady case load; Valencia has 25 cases and Los Lunas has 35 to 40 cases. Program is going well within the school; we have a meeting at Valencia on Thursday for a presentation. We have made good new connections since being back in Los Lunas Schools. As a result of all the presentations to the principals and assistant principals, we will be offering Restorative Justice at Century High School. We have completed our first and a second one next week. We anticipate more with the school as we focus primarily on school fights. I appreciate Linda and Phillip for paneling those circles as consistency is helpful. We have picked up several referrals from Sandoval County, Cibola County, Bernalillo County, and Socorro County as we are the closest Restorative Justice program. Meaning, CYFD has allowed those programs to tap into what Valencia County offers. Because of that, we are open to 22 Restorative Justice cases, and we are currently hiring for that position. Until it is filled, I am working through them but with the potential it has, it will be a full-time job. We have had success with the circles and are sitting at completing 5 to 6 a month. In February, we will complete it between 10 to 12. Botvin Lifeskills, we are offering in Los Lunas Schools and in Belen Schools. We are working on completing the Module D tests for Concha Montano to analyze in the next quarter. With the combined school districts, we are offering 25 sessions a week; this program has picked up and is offered primarily to 6<sup>th</sup> graders. It is recommended to start at this age based on the model of being able to have effective conversations. We have been fortunate to complete the sessions during school hours. The Boys Council and Girls Circle are also expanding; we are doing two sessions per week. The schools have reached out to us and are interested to have these programs in the schools if not in the Spring will definitely have a reserved time spot in the Fall. They believe the youth need mentoring programs. Across the board, we are doing really well. Going into the schools and presenting to the administration staff made a huge impact on program growth.

Victoria: I am impressed that you reached out to the other counties because we are the closest resource.

Noelle: Yes, to add to that, Boys Council, Girls Circle and Botvin Lifeskills will be offered over zoom to youth living in Sandoval County and Cibola County. Cibola County only has one program they can refer to and since Estevan Gallegos is acting supervisor over there, he is referring them to us. The only program I will not receive more referrals for is the RAC program because it covers all of Valencia County already and we cannot help another county. Cibola does not have a lot of options, so, they are connected with the closest CYFD funds.

Camille: Sandoval, Socorro, Cibola, Valencia, and where else?

Noelle: Bernalillo. That is only for Restorative Justice. Sandoval and Cibola for the other programs.

Jeremias: Very good, thank you Noelle. Is there any questions or comments from anyone online for Noelle or Holly on the H2 Academic Solutions update? Hearing none, I would like to make a comment, I have been working with Holly and Noelle, as we have been looking at the budget pretty closely. June will be here before we know it, so as everyone is aware, the CYFD funding we also get program support and have been able to identify any unencumbered monies and redirect those funds to cover the shortfalls as a result of the program growth from within the schools. We have situated those funds here at the county level with the necessary budget

adjustments and have conveyed this to H2 Academic Solutions. Because of this route, we are limited to funding any events like Attendance for Success if they plan for another conference. But this is exactly what the funds are for. Also, the application that was submitted for FY25 to FY27 will be covered in the JJAC meeting that is on Thursday, February 15<sup>th</sup>. They will talk about the recommendations and as information comes down on FY25 start date, I will have an update for the board. Right now, I do not have any reasoning to why we would not receive any funding and have not heard any bads news from our program manager with CYFD. At the county level, we are anticipating to have a solicitation for the programs we applied for ready by the end of February/early March so that any interested providers can make a response. We have that in place so that we are ready to go by July 1<sup>st</sup> because we should have the executed agreements by May according to the timeline. Fingers crossed that we receive all applied for funding but thank you to the board for the vote of confidence to be able to submit that application.

**G. Juvenile Probation Office (Update)**

Jeremias: Estevan is out, and we did confirm with him that there is no update at this time.

**H. Attendance for Success (Update)**

Jeremias: I know Estevan is the chair for this subcommittee but from my understanding Noelle will be able to fill us in on the Incentive Initiative program?

Noelle: Yes, Estevan asked me to share the two projects we are doing. We are continuously doing an initiative through the attendance for success taskforce. What that is, is gently used things around your households that you think the youth will like as an award or if you have gift cards you have not used. As a county we collect as many items as we possibly can and meet with all the schools including Isleta and divide up the items based on population need. For example, Isleta has an elementary school, so we make sure they receive elementary level items but also work with the elementary, middle, and high school. We try to make sure that it is equal value to each location, and I hand deliver or meet up with someone. Within the school, they determine which youth have earned the attendance. Some schools have used them as perfect attendance or improved attendance. The taskforce does not dictate how they are used only the intended initiative. This program has been going on for 3 years; we are still in need of items and are meeting next Wednesday, February 21, 2024, to divide everything up for this school year. So, if you have stuff, I can include my email as I am the contact person. Do you have questions on that? Perfect, the other thing that I wanted to touch on is which Jeremias mentioned. The task force is going to be helping support the Los Lunas High School Resource Fair with Jolynne and Heaven, the two Los Lunas students. If you guys would like to have a booth at the resource fair, there is no cost, but you will have to donate a raffle item. I am the contact person for the resources as well. The two young ladies are also seeking donations of cash or gift cards to get food items. They anticipate a couple of hundred people attending and will work within their budget. If your offices or agencies have funding, please let me know. The reason I am the contact person is because they asked me to be their mentor for their capstone project. However, Los Lunas Schools does not allow youth to go into the community as they are under aged, all their information is sealed. So, I advocate for them within the community.

Jeremias: Very good, also, the Attendance for Success meetings will be back on track. I know about the holidays we did not meet. But everyone should have the

meeting link for that meeting as he sent it out last week. If anyone does not, please reach out to me and I can get that to you. Are there any other questions or comments?

**I. Teen Court (Update)**

Victoria: Hi everyone, Teen Court YDI also attended Infinity High School Family Night and it was a Success. We were asked to complete a presentation by the principal which will be completed with H2 Academic Solutions. It was a successful night with the youth and the counselors. On February 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, I will be heading to Deming for the New Mexico State Teen Court Association Conference. In April, Teen Court will be supporting their carnival at the Hummingbird Festival hosted by H2 Academic Solutions on April 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> (Saturday and Sunday). On May 2<sup>nd</sup>, Teen Court was asked to have a table at the Los Lunas Middle School, not sure if it is a family night but it is on my calendar. Teen Court meets every first Thursday of the month and a huge thanks to Honorable Judge Sichler, she has donated her time to support us. She is an amazing woman. It has been a positive thing that we have been back in the court room again. Thank you so much. Our sanctions come out of H2 Academic Solutions, thank you Noelle and Holly. Our success comes to our community partners and thank you to Linda for helping with all the partners. Our referrals come from JPPO, so Estevan and officers, thank you. We did turn in a small proposal with Ginny Adame to get more money for Teen Court. We are successful because of you guys, thank you very much for your continued support!

Noelle: Can I add to that? I think it is really important that you guys are interested in Teen Court to get with Victoria on the court dates and actually attend them because they are really powerful. The last court date we had, we had one prosecutor and one defense attorney, and they kicked butt. They took care of their case. They had the family on one side and the jury on the other. It was in Deseri's court and looks really nice. Another thing, if you decide you want to be part of Teen Court as a role model it is nice to see them grow. Some get referred to the Youth Success Court; a lot of these kids were getting into trouble, but Victoria and Lucas are setting the ground for them and rebuilding them for the community. The length of time is one hour to an hour and a half, and I believe the kids want the audience.

Victoria: There are 20 to 25 public members, mostly parents, that attend. You are always welcome to attend, especially if you are the referring party. It is amazing, one youth that participated in the program is coming back to Teen Court! She went through her sanctions and came to me and said, "I want to make a difference now."

Jeremias: Victoria, can you put us on the invite list for when you do have a court date so that 25 turns to 50?

Victoria: Absolutely! That would be amazing. The next one is March 7<sup>th</sup> and Deseri has opened up her court room and has volunteered her time. So, yes, I will send that out to you.

Jeremias: Thank you, Victoria. Thank you, Judge Sichler, Victoria had nothing but kind words for you and what you offer is important.

Judge Sichler: Of course, thank you Victoria, it is an actual pleasure to have them in the court room. Lucas done an amazing job being the judge. It is nice to sit back and watch someone else do it.

Jeremias: Very good. Do we have any other questions or comments?

**J. McKinney Vento (Update)**

Camille: The Los Lunas Schools are working with 190 to 200 students, however, are unable to confirm with 30 to 40 students' eligibility. We are focused on preparing for next year. In the last year and a half, we added food cards for families. We need to



replace those funds, so I am looking for other grants to help curb the expenses. We are working with Midwest Cap for funds. Sandia has a big program for grants, so we are trying to prepare for next year through them. My position is funded for one more year and I am glad for that. We are continually looking for resources for our students and families. I am part of the community wellness council and I get a lot of information about their resources, and I participate when I can.

Jeremias: I have a question, you are extended for another year, does that mean the McKinney Vento Liaison in Belen good for another year?

Camille: Their program is different as they have different sources of funding. Our grant comes from the state that is federally funded. Belen is different, they have their administrator out of Belen Schools. Gwen is part of the Attendance for Success team and operates a little differently.

Jeremias: Awesome, thank you so much, Camille. Are there any more questions or comments? I know we have some folks from the Belen team. I know there is common ground between McKinney Vento Belen and McKinney Vento Los Lunas. I think it is important that we find a way to merge those two and find what is working and what is not for open communication as it relates to funding.

Camille: Gwen and I communicate every quarter and serve the same families as they move back and forth between school districts.

Jeremias: Hearing no other comments, we will move forward.

#### K. Other Business

Jeremias: Anyone have any business they would like to discuss?

Christine: I believe Richard Lindahl would like to speak up.

Richard: There was something, am I to understand that Cibola will participate by zoom in the Botvin Lifeskills program?

Noelle: Yes, that is correct. We have not received referrals from probation, but we did send Monique, their PO, with the direction of Estevan on the referral forms and flyers.

Richard: Okay, great. I used to go to Cibola County when they had a Juvenile Justice Board like yours and they had very few service providers. One goal that I am working on with the state is to get these services to other counties that do not have access to these boards. It is good to hear that Cibola is receiving these services. Thank you very much for that answer.

Jeremias: Thank you, is there any other business? Sheriff's office, do you have something to share?

John: If the sheriff's office can help, please do not hesitate to reach out.

#### L. Public Comment

Jeremias: We touched base on this a bit but is there anyone online that has a comment?

Val: As far as the Attendance for Success program goes, we appreciate any donations that are offered. As many of you know, it is an unfunded law, but we are required to make sure students are in school and we do not have funding to help with that. So, we appreciate anything that is donated. The other thing, for McKinney Vento purposes, for Belen, we primarily provide ARP funds but those come to an end this year. We primarily use McKinney Vento Belen federal funds.

Jeremias: Thank you for clarifying that Val and everything your team does.

Val: Thank you all.

Jeremias: Any other comments? Hearing none.



Concha: No comments, but I am working on evaluations that Christine has given me, and I have completed entering the data in which I have cleaned and filtered. I will be picking up more today.

Jeremias: Yes, ma'am. I have some for you. I would like to say thank you to Heather Smallwood for attending the meeting. We look forward to seeing you in future meetings.

Heather: You are welcome. I will try to attend but my schedule has been a little crazy.

Jeremias: I do not have anything else to discuss so, we will move forward.

**M. Adjournment**

Jeremias entertains a motion to adjourn.

Victoria accepts the motion.

Deputy Chief Kanyuck seconds the motion. Meeting adjourned at 1:04 pm. We may have a meeting in March for a final budget adjustment request and will send out the necessary invites. Thank you all for attending today. Have a wonderful day.

Next Regular JJAB Meeting: April 9, 2024 @ 12pm