



AGENDA
VALENCIA COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE ADVISORY BOARD
April 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes

~~To be held on Zoom~~

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

Tuesday, April 9, 2024
12:00PM-1:30PM

A. Introduction & Roll Call – **Quorum met.**

In-person Board members: Victoria Flores, Judge Allen Smith, Kaylee Jojola, and Camille Griego

Online Board members: Heather Benavidez, Estevan Gallegos, and Warden Randy Gutierrez

Youth Subcommittee members: Rayven Ward

General members: Jeremias Silva (**Grants Director**), Christine Arrellin (**Continuum Coordinator**), Rose LeDoux (**Grant Coordinator**), John Giron (**VCSO**), Deseri Sichler (**Magistrate Judge; Division III**), Val Gauthier (**Director of Federal Programs for Belen Consolidated Schools & Supervisor for the Attendance for Success Program and McKinney-Vento**), Noelle Chavez and Holly Chavez (**H2 Academic Solutions**), Darius King (**YDI**), Catherine Monarrez (**Los Lunas Schools Attendance Secretary**), Katerina Ward and Liam Ward.

Community Member Introduction

Allison Martin: I am part of a non-profit called TOTAL NM which stands for Teaching Outdoors To All Learners of NM and this is my first meeting.

B. Acceptance of Agenda

Heather entertains a motion to accept the agenda.

Estevan: Motions to accept.

Warden Randy: Seconds the motions. All I's...zero no's.

C. Approval of Meeting Minutes – February 13, 2024, JJAB Regular Meeting

Heather: Entertains a motion to accept the Meeting Minutes

Camille: Motions to accept.

Estevan: Seconds the motion. All I's...zero no's.

D. Youth Sub-Committee (Update)

Heather: I will hand it over to the youth that are present in the administration building.

Jeremias: Thank you, chairwoman Benavidez. Christine, did we have Phillip attend or did we want Katerina, Rayven, and Liam to lead that discussion?

Christine: We can let them lead the discussion as Phillip has not yet joined.

Rayven: So, we were working on an opioid flyer which each of us completed. If you look at the TV now, there are some of the ones we worked on. Our slogan is "**Save Your Brain, Too Much To Gain,**" it is like a drug-free flyer for middle school and high school students to inform them of the damages it causes.

Jeremias: Very good presentation! Chairwoman Benavidez, I would like to elaborate on that, so, the Opioid Remedial Collaborative (ORC) has been established which is a board that consists of representatives from each of the seven counties that received funding from the opioid settlement. At their last meeting, they wanted their media campaign and data from each county to put an 11"x17" flyer together. Shauna Hartley, who is the ORC liaison, reached out to me and Christine to have the YSC participate as well as population from inside Warden Randy Gutierrez's detention center. Their mission is "**Say No to Opioids**" and the YSC accepted that challenge. We met a couple times and as you saw from the slides Christine was showing, each of the youth developed what they felt was meaningful to them to **save your brain** and the long-term goals of **too much to gain**. For example, this one is of the brain being saved by a shield and it is being shielded by opioids, danger, and fire. This is a really good opportunity for the kids to express themselves through art, letters, and colors. The deadline for this is April 19th and we plan on meeting with YSC a couple more times to identify and include all pictures into one 11"x17" poster and submit to Shauna Hartley. Once it is developed and ready to go, it will be posted in middle schools and high schools throughout the state of New Mexico. I do want to give a shoutout to the kids for meeting us at DFI park on March 29th. We had pizza, a group discussion and a presentation from Shauna. We wanted to take a moment to share with the board what the youth have worked on and we are open to suggestions and comments. The youth will continue to work on bubbly and colorful words and will have a finalized poster that we will share with you all to share with others. Another thing for YSC, on May 31st, VCSO will be participating in the Special Olympics Torch Run and we will have the youth set up and prepare the lunch upon their return to the sheriff's office. Kaylee, if you have any youth that are interested in participating, please reach out to Christine and myself. I have nothing further to add unless I missed something Christine.

Christine: No, I believe you covered everything.

Heather: A quick, clarifying question, so, I love the campaign's slogan and the artwork was fantastic! Kudos to the kids who created them. If I am understanding correctly, the posters created, one will be selected for the official poster for the campaign on April 19th?

Jeremias: Our poster will be exclusive to Valencia County, and we are excited that we were selected to be a part of this.

Heather: Awesome, if there are no other questions, we can move forward.

Judge Smith: Chairwoman, I have comments on one of the pictures. I was concerned about the image that was shown last. It was super imposed over it. The green cross is associated with marijuana dispensaries.

Jeremias: Christine can you please pull it up. *Pulls up pictures.*

Judge Smith: I am wondering if that was okay, and we want to stay away from opioids. I think it sends a very mixed message of mood-altering senses.

Heather: Thank you for that comment, Judge Smith. I did not know that the green crosses represented that, did anybody else?

Christine: I did not.

Judge Smith: It is a rather common symbol to represent marijuana dispensaries.

Heather: I agree, I think it would be a good idea to speak with the artist and ask if that was the intention. Does anyone disagree with that?

Jeremias: I think that would be more than okay. Noelle, would it be okay if Rayven explained the reasoning behind the green crosses? To Judge Smiths query, I do not think it would be a big ask to change the color.

Rayven: The green is supposed to be a gain, the plus is you getting what you need instead of the drugs, opioids, and marijuana.

Heather: So, it was not your intention to use a cross that is represented by marijuana dispensaries?

Rayven: No.

Jeremias: We have a couple more meetings and we will make sure to change what needs changing. Rayven, I stopped at this one because I thought it was awesome.

Judge, thank you for bringing that to the attention of the board and as much as we appreciate Rayven's artwork, we do not want mixed messages to be delivered. We will convey to the board of the final poster.

Heather: I completely understand the green plus as what we want in the brain as opposed to the shield of stuff we do not want. Judge Smith, does that complete your comment and concern?

Judge Smith: Yes, thank you.

Heather: Okay, perfect. Are we turning it over to Christine or Jeremias?

Jeremias: Christine will share her screen and Noelle will speak on the adjustment.

E. Continuum Coordinator Update

a. BAR Discussion & Vote

Noelle: Thank you, Christine, for pulling that up. We are towards the end of the year spend down and we did one BAR in January. This will capture the last-minute needs. Right now, we are requesting to move \$2,200 from Pre-Circles and \$2,750 from Post-Circles to Botvin Belen for a total of \$4,950. We have a long list of Belen schools and programs who are interested. Restorative Justice has been doing fantastic, however, pre-circles and post-circles got funded double the amount needed. It will not hurt the program; I did a calculation out for the remainder of the year, and we should be able to get by. However, as I say every year, if we end up short, we will offer circles for free to the end of the year just because we do RJ circles in the community for free anyways. We should complete it before the end of the school year and deliver some in the summer if needed but will more than likely finish before end of the school year. We also want to move \$628 from Continuum Travel, which is Christine's travel funds to JJAC meetings to fund four more Boys Council sessions. Boys Council and Girls Circle have been doing fantastic this year. Finally, move \$7,920 from Continuum Coordinator Contract to Boys Council and Girls Circle; \$2970 to Boys Council and

\$4,950 to Girls Circle. Boys Council and Girls Circle have been receiving consistent referrals and currently run two groups per week after school. This funding would help get them through the remainder of the year and allow an additional session each week for the youth through June 30th. Christine, can you please provide some input as to why we are moving funds for anyone's concerns.

Christine: Yes, being that I had a baby almost 2 months ago, some of the funds from my budget would be moved to help fund the programs through the end of FY. The travel is moved to program alleviation as well as I will not be traveling far. There is a JJAC meeting in June that I will attend. That is the reason for moving funds over to spend as much as we can and revert as little as possible.

Jeremias: I would like to give a plug out to Christine. As she mentioned, she had her baby almost 2 months ago and she has not missed a beat as far as work-related tasks and keeping us up to date with CYFD obligations. I want to thank Christine for being able to recognize where she can pull funds from her budget in an effort to increase program activities. I just wanted to make that comment chairwoman Benavidez and we respectfully request consideration of this budget adjustment.

Heather: Congratulations Christine, your baby is beautiful, and we are glad to have you both with us.

Christine: Thank you.

Heather: Are there any questions about the budget adjustment request before we go to a vote? Hearing none, I will entertain a motion to approve the BAR.

Judge Smith: Motions to accept.

Victoria: Seconds the motion. All I's...zero no's.

Estevan abstains his vote.

b. Community Outreach – Update & Discussion

Christine: I do have one update. Jeremias did mention the Torch Run on May 31st. This month will be the Hummingbird Festival in Belen on April 27th and April 28th. I apologize I do not have the address on hand. Other than that, I do not have anything further to add. Jeremias, do you have anything to add?

Jeremias: The festival will be at the Rocket Teen Center on April 27th through April 28th from 9am to 2pm located at 129 South 3rd St, Belen, NM, 87002. We will get a flyer distributed to the group at the conclusion of this meeting.

c. Valencia County Update – ARC Panel Discussion & FY25-27 Awarded amounts overview

Jeremias: I wanted to give a brief discussion on the ARC panel that I was asked to sit on. Heather and Joshua Branch reached out to me and Noelle asking if we wanted to be a part of a discussion which happened on March 28th. In the webinar, the participants learned about the challenges and supports for youth with intellectual and developmental disabilities who have been in the juvenile justice system and those transitioning from pediatrics to adult care. I was asked to be a panel member along with two other individuals, and to my surprise, there were over a hundred people on the call. The conversation was very insightful. There was a Q&A section for those to ask why we do what we are doing. I was able to convey how strong the collaboration of JJAB is within the community and how having a voice in the necessary areas is what makes us successful. Having communication and partnerships with CYFD, JPPO, and program implementation. It was a very

healthy discussion, and I was happy that I was asked to assist, and I do have follow-up meetings with some individuals who are interested in the JJAB. They asked for offline conversations to understand the process. Thank you, Heather, for having Joshua reach out to me and I am more than happy to be a part of that panel in future discussions. Are there any comments or questions?

Heather: That is fantastic, and I think that it coincides with the training that they will be offering law-enforcement around the state to bring awareness to individuals with disabilities and their interactions with law enforcement. A hundred people on the call is incredibly intimidating, so, thank you for doing that and I am sure you “wowed” them!

Jeremias: Again, if anyone has comments or concerns, please feel free to reach out and I can give additional details. Okay, moving on. Christine, can you please share the CYFD FY25-27 awards. *Pulls up the awards.* We have some wonderful news on the application that was submitted at the beginning of this year. CYFD has since followed up with Valencia County on approved awarded amounts. However, I am disappointed to say that we did not get funding for the RAC Los Lunas West site. We did get funding for RAC Belen, RAC Los Lunas East and RAC Drop-Off sites. While we lost funding for RAC West, we gained funding for the Day Reporting Center. This is the first time that we have received funding but not the first time applying for it. The funding that will span from FY25-27 will include 3 years of funding for the Day Reporting Center. I am excited that this came through. We are still going to maintain the Botvin Lifeskills in Los Lunas and Belen. The other change that we discussed during the application process was the addition of Unity Circle to Boys Council and Girls Circle to aim for degenderizing the program entirely and embodies LGBTQ+ individuals. Everything is what we asked for outside of losing funding for RAC Los Lunas West site. We do plan on having conversations with CYFD to ensure that RAC is being delivered to Los Lunas Schools youth regardless of the east and west designation. The thought process behind this request was the river separating Los Lunas. Christine, can you please scroll down to the bottom so we can see the total amount? *Christine scrolls to bottom.* Each year we will receive \$518,728.20 and the counties match will be \$207,491 which will be met with a combination of in-kind services from the program provider in addition to salary from Valencia County staff for preparing the monthly documentation. This will be the last month that we can bill for this space because voting will take place so, as we identify other locations, I will keep everyone in the loop. I am hoping during calendar year 2024 somebody from the board could volunteer a site so that we can have our meeting and an overview of service. Last year we had our meeting at the Los Lunas PD in which Deputy Chief Kanyuck allowed us to conduct our meeting and then we toured the facility, and she showed us the intake process and holding cells. Please feel free to reach out to me or Christine if you choose to volunteer a location. One thing that is posing to be a problem is with procurement; I spoke with the procurement officer, and he does not want a solicitation made available until we have a completed agreement from CYFD has been received which we are hoping to receive by the end of April. We want to have the solicitation posted through the month of May in an effort to have the programs and subcontracts in place by approximately July 1st. I stand for any questions on this particular item.

Judge Smith: Jeremias, I am curious as to why Los Lunas West was not awarded.

Jeremias: The note that they gave us Judge, and reflects on the screen, was not funded based on model. This is why I want to have a conversation with CYFD to make sure that the funding received can be spread across all Los Lunas schools regardless of east and west.

Judge Smith: I am not sure what that means, not funded based on model. Is it something based on what we presented? Was it the lack of feedback from Los Lunas West? Is there a way to rectify it to get funding back in the future?

Jeremias: I appreciate that concern Judge Smith, but unfortunately at this time I do not have a clear answer as to why they did not fund that site. The only thing that I can assume is that Valencia County continuum site has received the most funding across the state. During the JJAC meetings, board members have expressed concerns for giving out high awards knowing that there are smaller continuums popping up around the state. I want to assume that was the driving force to ensure there is funding for the smaller continuums. CYFD did not share the same vision as we did about separating Los Lunas from east to west, so we knew a program was on the chopping block. I do not have the answer, but I will get that answer for you.

Judge Smith: Thank you.

Estevan: Does anyone know, maybe you Jeremias or Christine, from the outside looking in, we have two separate sites for one school district. Do we know if there are other continuums or school sites across the state separated by halves or quadrants?

Jeremias: To my knowledge Estevan, and thank you for the question, there is not. This was something that was discussed in the pre-planning of the application process. Due to staffing from H2 Academic Solutions, we thought that it was the best way to effectively deliver services to the east side and west side. Noelle can further explain on this. Camille, I know you have been waiting.

Camille: With the loss of RAC Los Lunas West, will it affect the number referrals received?

Noelle: Historically, CYFD has Los Lunas with two people since 2019.

When Jeremias sits down with CYFD he will get a clear answer, but he did hit on point that we will get the DRC which is a massive win since before when I was continuum coordinator, their goal was to get a DRC. This has been a personal goal for me because of the youth we see, and the police contact they have when they are not in a school-setting. I think the DRC is of huge value, however, I do see the concern for RAC because when Christine first told me I had a mini-panic attack. Currently, the breakdown of referrals with Karen on the east side of the river covers Valencia High School, Valencia Middle School, and all corresponding elementary schools on that side of the river. She also covers Century High School. If a kid is out of school, she also sees that kid outside of school. It also addresses youth from Meadowlake attending Los Lunas High School. Los Lunas High School, Los Lunas Middle school and elementary schools' west side of the river is covered by Lyndsey. She also services kids not in schools. Speaking loosely because we will be applying, but our goal is one person serving Los Lunas and use supplemental funding from programs to offset that because one person cannot cover the entire district. Brainstorming on my part is happening from the loss of that site. From *my* program perspective, I would

prefer to have lost one RAC site to gain the Day Reporting Center because it reflects the highest percentage of youth population at highest risk. Even though we are losing something, we are gaining something that is really valuable.

Camille: If you can tell us a little bit about the DRC. I think some of us do not know what that is.

Noelle: Yes, thank you for that question. So, it stands for Day Reporting Center, and it will operate 7 days a week. It is a day center for higher risk youth that are at a higher risk to themselves, or the community that are able to be there for the day. Pending the full contract, youth will be there for the day allowing their parents to go to work while their kids are in a safe space. A couple years ago when we did the test model, we focused heavily on school. However, CYFD said not to focus so much on school because there are other resources for them. The model that the county was awarded includes education, life skills, job skills and opportunities for counseling. The goal for the youth upon return to school is that they have a support system in place. Open weekends allow the youth to again be in a safe space while parents are working. More importantly, foster youth that do not have a place to go to. During our 5-month tester site a couple years ago, the youth that attended were having weekly law-enforcement interactions, high property damages, and youth that exhibited suicidal ideations. Schools could not keep the youth if they had not been accessed. Because of our tester site, we have an idea of the youth we will be serving. I hope that answers your question and if there are more, please let me know.

Camille: One more question, would that be for long-term expulsion students? Would that be a possible option for them?

Noelle: Yes, so, it would be for long-term suspended and juvenile probation referrals with a primary from JPO. Based on the model, we can only have 10 youth at one time because more than that would be challenging especially if the youth have higher risk behaviors. With our tester site, we had the same youth for 3 months, mostly boys and only one was able to read. The rest of the boys were at a kindergarten or first grade level. Because of this, the youth felt embarrassed and chose not to go to school. Through the writing rotary, we were able to work with some of the youth that wanted to learn so that when they went back to school, they had gained some level of confidence.

Jeremias: Noelle, I have one question, how do you anticipate receiving referrals for the DRC? Will it be a mixture of law-enforcement or JPO?

Noelle: We will prioritize juvenile probation referrals and then school referrals. I am assuming that law-enforcement referrals will be JPO referrals, and we can work out the details with Estevan. We will also have two clinicians onboard to help access the youth when needed.

Jeremias: Awesome, thank you. Chairwoman Benavidez, that is a segway into the next item with your approval.

Heather: Yes, we can move forward.

F. H2 Academic Solutions (Update)

Noelle: I will take us program by program and start with RAC. I am excited to say that we hired Maria Henderson for our drop-in center. I was covering the drop-in site and taking calls and she came onboard; it is the hardest position to fill because of the on-call hours. She is extremely passionate and has been working with the youth for six weeks now; she has 25 open cases that have all been successful. Karen with east

side Los Lunas has 40 open cases and Lyndsey at Los Lunas west side has 25 open cases. She is working with the schools on creating a list to provide summer food boxes. I will be working with Karen to get her list together. Our program provides food for youth who need food deliveries because they are unable to make it to the free lunches at school sites. We deliver food boxes once a week to their porch. Tristen at Belen has 65 to 70 open cases, and we were hoping to get two RAC Belen specialists and two RAC Los Lunas specialists, but Tristen is a trooper and has a great system going. Moving onto Boy's Council and Girls Circle, as I mentioned before we are running two sessions per week. The benefit of having two per week works around youth who are involved in sports or after school programs. This is the first year that we have implemented it and have found that more youth are able to attend if we have a couple of options available. Botvin Lifeskills in Belen is booming, all the Belen schools want it in their schools. Right now, Jenna is in the schools four days per week. We also have a couple of Los Lunas schools that are receiving sessions that are doing really well. Restorative Justice program is stronger than it has ever been. We have 25 open cases whether they are pre-circled, circled, or coming to the end of post-circle process. I met with the National Restitution Office, and they will fly in and visit us in May for a day to see how we run our Restorative Justice program. They will connect us with resources to partners and potentially RJ adults. I attended the NM Sentencing Commission Conference and was sitting at the same table as people who are passionate about RJ. Are there any questions on the programs?

Heather: Thank you for the update, Noelle. Hearing none, we can move on to item G.

G. Juvenile Probation Office (Update)

Estevan: I received some good news today. Those that do not know, we have historically had 4 JPO's in our office. We lost Tamara in October of last year and last I sent justifications to our higher ups to advocate for the open JPO position. I am unsure if it will be posted on the CYFD website. Part of the justification included data from our delinquent referrals and probation violations. We are up 30 referrals from last year when we had 4 probation officers. Now we have less probation officers with more referrals, but they are working with the youth. Reading them their preliminary inquiries and referring to services available through H2 Academic Solutions. When the DRC becomes available, we will refer to that as well. JPO continues to progress, and we continue to face issues with detention around the state. Thank you to Jeremias for getting ahold of Lea County to utilize their detention center when needed. That is all, are there any questions?

Heather: Hearing none, we can move onto the next item.

H. Attendance for Success (Update)

Estevan: Our meeting for March was with the 100% Summit a few weeks ago that took place at UNM-VC. It was a great turnout of representatives from our subcommittee. A principal from La Promesa presented about their 100% community's school. CWC is interested in JJAB for their one-stop shop for youth and their families throughout Valencia County to receive services. Next Wednesday is our next meeting at 12 pm via zoom. There is a month and a half left of school. We have had preliminary conversations with SODA about having a resource fair at the beginning of next school year. We were anticipating having it before the end of this school year, but it would be too rushed as we need substantial planning time. Los Lunas Schools also shares an interest. Last month we had the Health Fair at Los

Lunas High School with a great turnout and Noelle mentioned that it will be a yearly event which is a bridge for us to continue to help moving forward. Any questions?
Heather: Thank you, Mr. Gallegos. Hearing none, we can move on to the next item.

I. Teen Court (Update)

Victoria: On March 29th, we were invited to be a part of the Opioid Prevention posters that Jeremias talked about. On April 4th, we were in Judge Sichler's courtroom. There were 19 people that joined us from the public. On Thursday, April 11th, H2 Academic Solutions will have Kids @ Hope training with our Teen Court attorneys, 12 of them will receive that training. On April 25th and April 26th, I will attend the NM Teen Court Association Conference. Our young people of Teen Court and YDI will host another carnival at the Hummingbird Festival on April 27th and April 28th. On May 2nd, Los Lunas High School invited Teen Court to partake in Career Day – Lucas and Noelle train the youth to be attorneys. I would like to talk about one of our students, Josiah Vallejos, who was one of the 1000 chosen youths from the United States to be a part of the United Nations to attend a conference in New York. It came out in the news bulletin. I am very proud of the work that we do, YDI and Juvenile Justice. It is amazing that we have our young people that go above and beyond in Valencia County. Congratulations to Josiah on his success. I have someone here with me that is new with YDI, he has been with us for two days now.
Darius: Hello again, my name is Darius King, I am the Family Resource Navigator for YDI.

Jeremias: Quick plug for Josiah, awesome work with what you have done with that boy, Victoria, and Christine has an article for everyone to see. *Christine pulls up the article*. It is awesome that he was recognized in the manner that he was. Thank you for sharing, Christine.

Heather: Agreed and that is fantastic. If there are no questions for the update, we can move on to the next item.

J. McKinney Vento (Update)

Camille: Right now, we are serving about 190 students and on average, 200 students this year. Currently, we are working with our seniors to get them their FAFSA letters that are eligible to put them at the top of the list for federal grants and housing, if needed. We are working with our food distribution at Valencia Elementary School and are collaborating and coordinating with MidWest Cap. I am excited to say that I have been working with Community Wellness Council of Valencia County to start a food pantry at Los Lunas High School in coordination with Lending a Paw. We are also working on grants for next year and are going through a reorganization with the new Superintendent.

Heather: Thank you for the update, are there any questions? Hearing none, we will move on.

K. Other business

a. Opioid Prevention Flyer

Jeremias: We kind of went over what this is, and this specific item was designated for Shauna Hartley, but she unfortunately was unable to attend. I believe we facilitated enough discussion earlier in this meeting with the youth. I have nothing further to add on that topic. I did, however, want to mention to you all that Patricia Gregor has served on this Juvenile Justice Advisory Board since I have been on the board. She was selected as the vice-

chair last year and informed us of her resignation. We completely understand and have thanked her for her efforts and the assistance she has provided us. I am very grateful for her time served, so, with that said we have a vice-chair seat open, and it will be an item on the agenda once again until it is filled. Please, if anyone is interested, reach out to Christine or me. We would love to have a discussion with you. That is all that I have.

Heather: Okay, thank you, I will reiterate about Ms. Gregor being a very kind person. It is a loss for the board, but she has work obligations that interfere with our meetings. We will miss her and thank her for her service. If someone is interested in being vice-chair, please speak up. It is a fantastic opportunity.

L. Public Comment

Jeremias: If there is anyone online, you have two to three minutes.

Victoria: If anyone is interested, DWI, YDI and a few others will be hosting the post-prom activities that start this weekend April 13th for Los Lunas High School and Belen High School. The Los Lunas theater opens at 12am for anyone who wants to be chaperones, it is until 3am. April 27th will be Valencia High School, Century High School, and Infinity High School. After the prom, they can come watch a free movie and get free popcorn and a soda. The taskforce will be out, so, I invite all of you to come and join us.

M. Adjournment

Jeremias: Entertains a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Camille: Motions to accept.

Victoria: Seconds the motion. All I's...zero no's.

Next Regular JJAB Meeting: June 11, 2024 @ 12pm