



AGENDA
VALENCIA COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE ADVISORY BOARD
November 2023 MEETING
To be held on Zoom

Thursday, November 30, 2023
12:00PM-12:45PM

- A. Introduction & Roll Call – Quorum Confirmation – **Quorum met.**
Board Members:
Heather Benavidez, Estevan Gallegos, Randy Gutierrez, Victoria Flores, Judge Smith, Camille Griego, and Kaylee Jojola

General Members:
Christine Arrellin, Jeremias Silva, Noelle Chavez, and Holly Chavez
- B. Acceptance of Agenda
Heather: **Motion to Accept**
Camile...motions to accept.
Victoria seconds the motion. All I's...zero no's.
- C. Approval of Meeting Minutes – October 10, 2023, JJAB Regular Meeting
Heather: **Motion to accept meeting minutes.**
Estevan...motions to accept.
Victoria seconds the motion. All I's...zero no's.
- D. CYFD 3-year Grant Application Discussion
Jeremias: **Quick rundown, Christine sent drafted application that we will be sending to CYFD for FY25-27 Continuum Grant Fund. Positive discussions during CYFD Training that Christine and myself attended and a solid understanding between Noelle and Holly of the program specific information. We have compiled a completed draft application, in the process of getting letters of support, and a tentative date set between November 27th through December 8th with CYFD for our first review. Once we have that review, Christine will send a summary of the discussion. We will finalize the application for another review and vote on it during our JJAB meeting on December 12th which is a requirement for this application submission. Participation is critical and I will hand deliver on the 13th or 14th. I will**

pass it back to Christine and Noelle and go page by page explaining what we have and answer any questions, comments, or concerns. We will be taking notes and are accepting letters of support. We have a substantial amount received and want to extend request to the board who have partners or stakeholders who will be willing to submit a letter of support. Please send it to Christine or me and we will have it included.

Christine: Estimated budgeted summary, hours per year and calculated salary. Travel includes 2 JJAC meetings and training. The expenses for the programs we are applying for, the only difference you see is the Day Reporting Center and One Circle. Next page is a breakdown.

Jeremias: We are requesting a considerable amount higher than what we have previously been awarded due to CYFD increasing fee for services for programs already in place. After conversations with staff internally and Noelle we feel confident that the match amount will be achieved through community events and meetings held. Travel and youth stipends have been prepopulated by CYFD and factored into total cost.

Christine: The needs statement covers what Valencia County will be addressing with H2 Academic Solutions tackling any issues youth face.

Jeremias: Needs Assessment and Strategic Plan completed by Concha Montano, so we utilized that data in conjunction with the programs we will be requesting.

Christine mentioned that we will be requesting money for a Day Reporting Center and further information will be provided as we scroll through the application. I wanted to highlight as it is priority number two opposed to the last application. The Day Reporting Center has been discussed several times in different board meetings with stakeholders supporting this effort. Schools will benefit from having a DRC and are happy to note that we can apply for it. One other thing, for the last four years we had Boys Council and Girls Circle which were separate. Now we are combining them together under One Circle and adding Unity Circle in an effort to degenderize issues. One Circle includes LGBTQ+; we really want all youth to have access to services. Including Unity Circle aligns with our Strategic Plan and Needs Assessment.

Estevan: Boys Council and Girls Circle will be combined into One Circle?

Jeremias: Yes, One Circle embodies Girls Circle, Boys Council and Unity Circle.

Christine: Program response was put together by Noelle, Jeremias and myself looking at the three factors of the programs: Substance Misuse, fighting/bullying in school and suicidal ideation based on how the programs tackle the issues. Below is the estimated costs of each program and how it is broken down per CYFD priority area including the costs.

Jeremias: CYFD does have priority areas and each of the programs are evidence-based.

Christine: The first program is RAC, and the priority is Alternatives to Detention. Noelle, can you please provide a brief description?

Noelle: We extended the time frame from 6-8 weeks long but in reality; it is about 6 months. We are asking for another Belen RAC person to divide the caseload of 80-100 cases. If CYFD comes down to a change, we are willing to drop the Drop-in site because it is less utilized. Otherwise, same information with the increase in hours operated to reflect elementary school days. Any questions?

Jeremias: With the previous application it was by school site, this one we are requesting by region – Los Lunas Eastside, Los Lunas Westside, Belen Eastside, and Belen Westside. This was discussed with H2 Academics with the understanding that they would have an easier way to provide services.

Christine: With the last grant cycle, we served 600 and again want to meet that goal and exceed it. With the different regions, we will easily exceed it.

Noelle: On the program performance measures, these were selected based off juvenile inventory for functioning (JIFF) showed over the last couple years. Prior programs measures were based on prior contract with New Day. They can actually be measured with our tools. Site-Specific measures are from experiences had working with youth that we think we can aim to do better/more.

Christine: Noelle, thank you. What you see here are the different regions we are applying for with the inclusion of the Drop-In site resulting in the increase of requested funds. Are there any questions before moving to the next program? Hearing none, the Day Reporting Center is a new program we are applying for, and it is alternatives to detention and hope to serve 60 youth.

Noelle: Day Reporting Center request for funding has been the JJAB has been mentioned for the last 7 years. Valencia County gave us an opportunity to run it as a “tester-program” for 6 months two years ago. CYFD is now allowing it as an option. We are proposing to run a year-round DRC program that serves youth 12 to 17 years who attend school in Valencia County. Youth referred to this program will be long-term suspended, expelled or in need of an alternative setting in a safe location. DRC are resource hub-based not just education-based. So, wrap around services, medical, and behavioral health that enhances the education component so that when the youth leave that have had access to other resources or services. That is the purpose and the reason for 60 youth to serve is because we think we can manage 10 kids at a time for an average of 2 months. Any questions as this is a newer program?

Judge Smith: Where would this be located?

Noelle: At a central location. If we are the provider, it would be at our main office which is by Belen Police Department. It is within walking distance of housing areas and within distance of the train station for Los Lunas youth and the Rio Metro. During the 6-month trial period, we offered gas cards to those that faced transportation challenges. With this implementation, Valencia County will help offset the costs as they are program expenses. It does not serve one 100% as Rio Metro does not provide rides in certain areas of the county. Gas cards and Rio Metro is an added benefit for the youth that can make that happen.

Jeremias: The County does receive program-support funds and we are open to supplying gas cards so that the individuals can make it to the sessions available or DRC. This does need to go out on RFP and have discussed with CYFD. Anticipation from the County is that it is not dollar amount but based on ability to serve. We understand that H2 Academic Solutions has provided these services for several years and will take this into consideration, but we do have to offer a formal solicitation. Tentatively for January or early February.

Noelle: Are there any other questions on the DRC?

Camille: Youth served of 60, is that in an academic school year?

Noelle: It is for the year-round. We talked about just school year based but we have youth during the summer in need of a safe space. The goal is to help decrease police contact and provide them with resources that is not available for only 9 months.

Estevan: Is there an educational component planned?

Noelle: Yes, it is based off where they left off. In our 6-month experience, if the youth have an IEP, the school will provide the educational materials which we coordinate with the school principal or teacher to continue that path to get it completed and turned in. If the youth are on a phone-based, we will have the teachers meet the youth here. All other youth will utilize an online program. Again, this is all based on the RFP who receives the funding, and they determine. However, there are a

lot of online programs that will address academic needs. Program measures are based off on what we can measure through conversations with Juvenile Probation. Keeping in contact with JPO and Ruben from the schools to tract the youth. Site-specific is the same as it is a guess of what the outcome will be.

Christine: DRC will be the only activity in the portal with the expenditure amount needed per year. Botvin Lifeskills has little to no changes. In FY23, youth served was 675 and are hoping to serve 300 youth while exceeding that goal.

Noelle: Botvin Lifeskills changed the least, however with the last application site-specifics of Botvin Belen and Botvin Los Lunas locked us in for a set number of sessions. It is easier if we have a Valencia County approach for the schools that are highly interested. For example, Belen schools got rid of advisory period due to behavioral issues, so we are not able to conduct sessions. However, Los Lunas schools are opportunities. That was the main change, are there any questions?

Christine: Hearing none, we are moving on to program performance measures and site-specific.

Noelle: These come directly from what Botvin says it does so we pulled from their website. Some of our schools are on a 3-year rotation by next year and will have fidelity sites. With the intent of county wide, we will serve more youth. Down at the bottom, you can see Botvin Valencia as the change and a quantity of 200 vs 99 per location.

Christine: Are there any questions for Noelle before moving forward? Hearing none, moving on to One Circle that Jeremias had mentioned earlier. Under the One Circle we have Boys Council, Girls Circle and Unity Circle that includes the LGBTQ+. We served 77 in FY23 and hope to serve 90 youth under the new grant cycle.

Noelle: Benefit of doing it this way is that we are not getting rid of Girls Circle or Boys Council, we are adding Unity Circle. However, if we treated them each as individual programs, CYFD max's out at 5 forcing us to get rid of other programs. Jeremias and Christine spoke with CYFD with the One Circle approach using the same program with different binders to meet youth needs. Based on CYFD response of yes, we are giving it a shot. Unity Circle curriculum is different from Boys Council and Girls Circle being that it is only 10 sessions long. We do not think we will run more than one unity circle per week, but we want that option to offer the LGBTQ youth. Currently we're offering it every Wednesday without the funding. To be able to offer that under the umbrella has the sustainability piece keeping it going. Are there any questions? Okay, program measures came directly from the program with an increase for some as the target was already met. Some of the 60% were 40% and some 40% were 20%. I think we should continue to strive to increase. Site-specific were also from the previous application but changed them because I think we can do better. Now the activity, Girls Circle is 74 and Boys Council is 104 and Unity Circle is 52. The reason for the quantity difference is because we looked at historical use of programs and determined that Boys Council is used almost double of Girls Circle. Unity Circle will get us started and meet the needs of youth. Any questions?

Christine: Hearing none, we will move onto Restorative Justice which is the 5th program that we are applying for. We did meet the need to serve 50 as we served 51. In FY25, we are aiming for 50 youth projections.

Noelle: No changes to this one however, on the last application, I said we would serve the 13th Judicial District which is still included as there are other counties that do not have the Restorative Justice Programming and CYFD is allowing counties to connect with closest program that has it. I will have another Restorative Justice Circle Panel in January if anyone is interested. Does anyone have any questions?

Estevan: Not a question but appreciative that Restorative Justice has been opened to the district as it is much needed.

Noelle: Program measures are pretty close to previous application as it was accurate. There are not percentages as it would need to be tracked over time. Site-specific is about restoring the youth back to community; so, long-term tracking should be that most of the kids should not come back through. Engaging the local youth subcommittee to participate in the circles is what we are already doing – Phillip Montano has been a youth voice for 3 years. Any questions? Okay, quantities for each activity. Pre and post circle are combined whereas on the previous application they were separated; it mimics the portal and Circle is billed at a different rate of service.

Christine: Noelle, thank you of the program descriptions and that is our last page.

Jeremias, do you have anything to add?

Jeremias: Yes, Judge Smith?

Judge Smith: Our chair disappeared.

Jeremias: Heather did put in the chat that she had to step off and asked that I act as a proxy for the rest of the meeting. We are now at the end of the meeting. This was the only item on the agenda to discuss and we wanted you, the board, to know what we are submitting for the upcoming grant cycle and welcome any comments or suggestions. Again, we will meet again on December 12th for the regular JJAB meeting. Christine will send out an updated copy of the drafted application once we have the sit down with CYFD for the review. We will highlight and indicate any changes that were made and compare so that on December 12th we can review it one last time and needs a vote of confidence. I want to highlight the importance of attendance because we will be voting on the composition of this board to ensure that those on the board want to remain, and we will do a formal vote for chair and vice-chair so that in January when I present to Board of Commissioners, it is a smooth transition for the full year. Another thing that we will look over are the Bylaws with minor changes that have been discussed throughout the year on the youth subcommittee and an inclusion to accept electronic voting; continue the way we have been doing but that it reflects in Bylaws. All that documentation will be submitted by Christine well in advance of the December meeting and we will need a quorum in place for all the necessary actions to address any comments or concerns from the board. Before ending the meeting, I would like to open it up to any comments, concerns, or further discussions. Hearing none, moving forward.

E. Adjournment

Jeremias (Proxy for Heather) motions to adjourn.

Judge Smith accepts the motion.

Camille seconds the motion. All I's...zero no's. The meeting was adjourned at 12:46 pm.

Next Regular JJAB Meeting: December 12, 2023 @ 12pm