



AGENDA
VALENCIA COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE ADVISORY BOARD
December 2023 MEETING - Minutes

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

Tuesday, December 12, 2023
12:00PM-1:30PM

- A. Introduction & Roll Call – Quorum Confirmation – Quorum met.
JJAB Members via Zoom – Heather Benavidez (CEO, Arc of NM), Estevan Gallegos (Juvenile Probation Supervisor), and Randy Gutierrez (Prison Warden)
- JJAB Members In-Person** – Jhonathan Aragon (Valencia County Commissioner), Victoria Flores (YDI-Teen Court), Judge Smith, Camille Griego (Los Lunas Schools, McKinney-Vento), and Kaylee Jojola (Isleta Truancy Coordinator)
- Youth Subcommittee Members** – Josiah Vallejos, Phillip Montano, and Rayven Ward
- General Members via Zoom** – Val Gauthier (Director of Federal Programs for Belen Consolidated Schools & Supervisor for Attendance for Success Program), Trevor Soiles (Attendance for Success Coach), Jeremias Silva (Valencia County Grants Department), and Rose LeDoux (Valencia County Grants Coordinator)
- General Members In-Person** – Christine Arrellin (Continuum Coordinator), Holly Chavez and Noelle Chavez (H2 Academic Solutions), Concha Montano (Valencia County Evaluator), and Catherine Monarrez (Los Lunas Schools Attendance Secretary) and Joshua Zuni (Valencia County Grants Department)
- a. Community Member Introduction – If Applicable
- B. Acceptance of Agenda
Heather: As stated earlier, we will be removing item d under E, Juvenile Justice Advisory Board MOU with Valencia County – TBD as one is already in place which

we will be removing, are there any other items that we will be adding or taking off before we accept it?

Christine: No, there is not.

Heather: Entertains a motion to accept.

Commissioner Aragon... motions to accept.

Judge Smith... seconds the motion. All I's...zero no's.

C. Approval of Meeting Minutes – November 30, 2023, JJAB Special Meeting

Heather: Motion to accept meeting minutes.

Judge Smtih... motions to accept.

Victoria... seconds the motion. All I's...zero no's.

D. Youth Sub-Committee (Update)

Christine: Josiah can you please tell the board what you participated in in the last few months?

Josiah: There were 3 events since our last meeting but I only attended one, which was recently on December 6th. We put food and snacks inside bags and duffle bags for kids that are in foster homes from moving around a lot. Distribution will occur later this month.

Christine: Thank you, Josiah. Some of our youth participated in the H2 Resource Center Thanksgiving Meal in which they ate before the community arrived. Some served sides and others kept the younger children aside so that the adults could enjoy themselves. On October 28th and October 29th, the youth passed out program information and met different vendors. It was a craft fair and food trucks.

E. Continuum Coordinator Update

a. Review and vote on Bylaws

Christine: I will pull up the Bylaws that have been edited. Board members were given a copy prior to review. Under Article 3, membership, appointment, term of office and compensation – item E “The term of office for a member of the Board shall be one (1) year. With the removal of Youth Representatives shall serve a term of (1) year and shall resign their membership if their high school graduation occurs before the end of their term.” Item F, with the addition of “Any events attended outside of the monthly meeting will require prior approval from Valencia County and the Continuum Coordinator.”

Judge Smith: I am concerned that it is unclear that it suggests that youth subcommittee members cannot attend meetings outside the monthly meeting unless they get approval from Valencia County and the Continuum Coordinator. Is it just that they cannot be compensated for anything else but the regular meeting without permission? If they want to attend another event but are not looking to get compensated, do they need permission?

Jeremias: Yes, that is 100% correct, the revision is because we need a little more control as we recognize that some youth are able to participate opposed to some youth who do not have the necessary transportation. We wanted to have something in place so that if they wanted to get compensated for it. Any additional event outside the monthly event will need prior approval. You are correct, it is strictly reimbursement from the grant.

Judge Smith: The sentence needs to be made clear. If a youth subcommittee member participates in other events outside the monthly meeting they will only be compensated with prior approval.

Jeremias: We can definitely make that revision. Christine, please make a note when you are completing the minutes so that we have the revision and presented to the board for consideration.

Christine: Thank you, Judge Smith, for your concern. Moving onto Article 5 – Meeting of Members, item F – Quorum with the addition of “Each voting member shall be entitled to one vote with voting occurring electronically if necessary.” Article 6 – Bylaws – item A “Bylaws shall be approved annually by the Board of County Commissioners.” That is the last revision made and we will make note of the revisions to the youth subcommittee members and present it to the board in January.

b. Board Composition vote

Christine: So, I have received confirmation from each of you on your participation on the JJAB as a voting member for 2024. At this time, are there any nominations or self-nominations to be part of the JJAB for 2024? Hearing none, we will move on to entertain a motion to vote.

Judge Smith: Can I ask you to just do a roll call for those that decide to continue? So that we know who wants to continue and those that do not.

Christine: Yes, we can do that for ease. Heather?

Heather: Yes.

Christine: Jhonathan?

Commissioner: Yes.

Christine: Estevan?

Estevan: Yes.

Christine: Randy? I have received an email from him, and he does plan to continue. Victoria?

Victoria: Yes.

Christine: Judge Smith?

Judge Smith: Yes.

Christine: Camille?

Camille: Yes.

Christine: Kaylee?

Kaylee: Yes.

Christine: Okay, we can entertain a motion, Heather.

Heather: Okay, thank you Christine, and thank you to all the board members who want to continue serving. I appreciate it and I know the community appreciates it. I am entertaining a motion to vote on the JJAB composition for 2024 made up of Heather, Patricia, Jhonathan, Estevan, Randy, Victoria, Judge Smith, Camille, and Kaylee.

Commissioner...Motions to accept.

Estevan seconds the motion.

Heather: Thank you, is there any discussion? Any opposed? Okay, the board composition for 2024 has been accepted and thank you all.

c. CYFD 3-year Grant Application review and vote to submit application

Christine: I do apologize as it is not pulled up on the screen, but a copy was sent out to the board members. We did have a review with CYFD staff last week with minor revisions. Jeremias, do you have anything to add?

Jeremias: Yes, the review with CYFD went extremely well. They were impressed with the jump from the previous application to this FY25-27 application. As Christine mentioned there were minor revisions that were requested. The only revision that is worth noting is that the RAC program was originally separated by region which was Belen East and Belen West.

After our review with the CYFD staff they felt that because the dynamics of Belen does not mirror that of Los Lunas, they felt that one request. Opposed to Los Lunas High School separated by the Rio Grande River to Valencia High School. Having an East side and a West side approach still applies. Instead of having the five RAC programs, we are only going to have the four. That is all that I have to say on the application, Christine and I stand for any questions.

Christine: Hearing none, Heather, I entertain a motion to vote.

Heather: Can I entertain a motion to submit the application to CYFD for the 3-year grant?

Commissioner: Accepts the motion.

Victoria...seconds the motion. All I's...zero no's. Estevan abstains vote for the record.

Jeremias: Thank you to the board for sticking with us through the process. The past four years have shown progress as identified in our Strategic Plan and Needs Assessment. We continually make an impact, but we want to do more and with this particular application is for three years to reflect the CYFD 3-year Strategic Plan. After sitting with the program provider, coordinator and CYFD, we have received nothing but thumbs up for Valencia County. They are wanting to see us succeed and we are hopeful of the inclusion of Unity Circle for the youth needing services.

~~d. Juvenile Justice Advisory Board MOU with Valencia County TBD~~

e. Community Outreach – Update & Discussion

Christine: We have a few events coming up that I think are crucial for our youth to participate in. Tomorrow, a couple of our youth will put together bags for youth in the foster care. Open Stars in the partnering with H2 Academic Solutions to get these together. On Friday, December 15th, Valencia County Sheriffs Office will be here for their Toyland event. On December 18th will be at the H2 Resource Center for the event called “Shop for Your Parents,”. Our youth will be helping youth from the community pick a present for their parents and help wrap it. December 20th is the same thing, but the youth will be present for a longer time.

f. Valencia County BoCC accepted MOU with LLSD

Christine: I did attend that meeting on November 22nd, and they have blessed us for that MOU which allows for me to conduct CYFD fidelity checks on school campuses. I did reach out to our point of contact who directed me to another person within the district that will request a background check to get completed and receive a badge. Those are the updates that I have.

F. H2 Academic Solutions (Update)

Noelle: RAC program is the largest, two hundred cases open right now, ninety are from the Belen School District. Thank you, Trevor. For Los Lunas, we are about to hit fifty cases for each case manager because we are now in the schools and are receiving a bulk list of referrals. Lyndsey and Karen are tackling it. RAC project for Christmas is our Angel Tree which is also open to multiple programs, but we select kids that are in most need. They get a minimum of two gifts. On the 18th, we will have Santa and the Grinch, and the youth will be able to pick up or we can drop off at their house. For Restorative Justice, we have been our busiest, we are currently serving five different counties. We have Socorro, Cibola, Sandoval, Bernalillo, and Valencia County. We have seven youth who have completed their circle, four

pending circles, and five pending contacts. We used to have RJ circles a month, so we have our hands full, but it is fantastic because Restorative Justice is a powerful tool. The Boys Council and Girls Circle are really busy as we are doing two sessions per week to keep up with the need. I anticipate having two sessions per week for the next couple of months and when summer rolls around it will go back to 1 session. Botvin Lifeskills has been slower this year, we have one session offered a week in Los Lunas and 2 to 3 in Belen. We do have a Los Lunas School that Heather will be teaching in January. Does anyone have any questions about the programs?

G. Juvenile Probation Office (Update)

Estevan: Juvenile Probation continues to truck along as two of our officers retired. They were both in surveillance. Unfortunately, Juvenile Justice Services in New Mexico are still in a hiring freeze. No new information has been provided about whether those positions will be filled or not. My staff continue to receive referrals from school resource officers in Los Lunas as well as Belen. Families are being referred as well from school personnel, law enforcement, and parents.

H. Attendance for Success (Update)

Estevan: We are taking a month off due to being too close to the holidays. Prior to taking the month off, we were planning to participate in a festival with the School of Dreams Academy but after discussions and logistics, we decided to do something similar in the Spring, possibly in April. The weather will be a lot nicer. We will be busier as we plan to have an event with the Pueblo of Isleta as well as Los Lunas Schools. We did have a successful event with Belen during the Fall. We are still collecting incentive cards for youth to distribute to the different school districts and Isleta Pueblo. That is all the updates from me.

Jeremias: I wanted to highlight the Attendance for Success has conducted successful events due to having sufficient time to plan for it. Our planning process was about 3 months and I think with the SODA event it was too soon and too fast that there was not sufficient time to grasp the concept of how it would go.

Estevan: The Attendance for Success subcommittee is the strongest as we have been meeting for years. We are consistently looking outside the box on how to support teachers, kids, and parents.

Heather: Any other comments for the Attendance for Success? You all are doing great. Sounds like you all deserve a month off.

I. Teen Court (Update)

Victoria: On November 22nd, we supported H2 Academics with their Thanksgiving meal. It was a great event. On November 30th, our Teen Court group was able to attend the New Mexico Court Association Conference via zoom. We saw Portales do their mock trials and they requested how we do our teen court. Valenica County is the model program. Judge Sichler allowed us back into her court room on December 7th, it was nice to be back. When Covid first hit, we did it online and did pleas instead of trials. Then we turned our YDI conference into a court room. Thank you to Judge Chavez who donated a podium, but we are happy to be back in the court rooms. Thanks to the community we are alive and well.

Heather: That is great, I loved being in the court room. Any comments for the teen court update? Thank you, Victoria, moving onto McKinney Vento.

J. McKinney Vento (Update)

Camille: In August to December, we received three hundred referrals and have 167 students who are actively qualified. We have fifty outstanding referrals that are pending contact. Passed few months have been busy and we were fortunate to have programs for our students from the community. The Rotary Club sponsored a clothes shopping spree for Walmart. We have partnered with Los Lunas High School Lending a Paw program to deliver fifty meal boxes for Christmas. We have a lot of support from the county as we received one hundred turkeys to deliver to families in the schools. They will assist us in distributing one hundred hams for the Christmas holiday. We continuously look for grants to help youth within the community. This past year, we partnered with La Vida to get a grant to transition preschool program to get backpacks. We are looking to partner with Midwest Cap for resources to continue to have food cards. Valencia County helped provide Covid money for food cards. We are hoping to partner with Midwest Cap for a grant through Sandia Labs and possibly assist with rental assistance. That is the current update, thank you.

Heather: Thank you, Camille, that was a lot. Are there any questions for her? Hearing none, moving on.

K. Other business

Heather: Do we have other business to discuss?

Christine: Yes, I just wanted to let you all know that we will request a BAR and a special meeting will be held in January via 100% zoom. I will send a calendar invite.

Heather: Do you have a date in mind yet?

Jeremias: Yes, we have to have everything submitted by January 15th, so I am hoping to have a meeting called something between January 10th and 12th. Christine will get that invite sent out, but it will be for the week of January 8th. Also, as Camille mentioned, turkey and ham distribution. The turkeys were an absolute success. We partnered with various local providers to distribute 332 turkeys to families in need. We look forward to doing the same with the 332-ham distribution. We will distribute to Belen this Friday, and as Camille mentioned, we will distribute to Los Lunas Schools on Monday, the 18th. For those that are on the call, I am still waiting to hear from Shamrock Foods for a time for pick-up at the Belen Senior Center, but we are looking between 10 am and 1pm. I do not have anything else but a great appreciation to the board members for your continued support and I look forward to serving with you all in 2024.

Heather: Appreciates Jeremias for the updates and is amazed for all the things going on in Valencia County.

Jeremias: Now that you are on the APS school board, we would entertain any comments or suggestions that you see that are working could be catered to Valencia County.

Heather: I believe it'll be a great partnership. Anything else? Moving onto item L.

L. Public Comment

Heather: Would anyone like to make a comment today? Is there a time-limit?

Jeremias: We do not have one but if it seems to approach the 1:30 adjournment then we would speak up. Perhaps that is something to include in the Bylaws, Christine, for the next revision update for the board.

Judge Siehler: Hi Heather, I wanted to let you know that Jeremias called me last week and invited me to begin attending the meetings. What I have heard so far is that you guys do a lot of good things, and I am grateful for the invitation and glad to be here.

Commissioner: I am not always here in the meetings due to a busy schedule, but I was put on this board awhile back and it is so refreshing to see how well everyone is getting along and how well this board values our partnership with H2 Academics. It is nice to see our youth giving positive input and being involved in the county, which is really important to the Valencia County Commission. Thank you everyone for aggregating to sit on this board and to our youth for being such a big part of it and your involvement. I hope one day you all will be running these meetings and being the board members. A big thanks to our coordinator and Jeremias.

Heather: Showing appreciation towards Jeremias and Christine and highlighting the want for the youth to one day take over.

Christine: Commissioner, thank you for those kind comments. Linda was unable to stay connected, but she wanted to let you all know that she and Phillip helped at the Thanksgiving meal on November 22nd by giving the sides and Phillip helped the kids make Christmas ornaments. Thank you for allowing me to share her comments. Are there any other public comments?

Heather: Arc of NM Board of Directors is looking for applicants to fill some of our positions. So, if you are interested, let me know, and I will send you our board perspectives as well as the application. We would love a varied and diverse group.

Jeremias: Would you be so kind in providing us an email so that we can disseminate that?

Heather: Yes, I can.

Christine: If there are no other comments, we can move onto item M.

Judge Sichler: My apologies for the delay, but I had to look up Arc of NM. I am interested and would like to receive that information.

M. Adjournment

Heather: Entertain a motion to adjourn.

Judge Smith:...motions to adjournment.

Commissioner seconds the motion.

Next Regular JJAB Meeting: February 13, 2024 @ 12pm