

Valencia County Juvenile Justice Board Meeting
Judge Pope's Courtroom
1835 Highway 314 S.W.
Los Lunas, NM 87031

January 26, 2012 @ 12:00 pm
Meeting Minutes

❖ **Welcome and Introductions**

❖ **Presentation by the Men's Recovery Academy:**

The Men's Recovery Academy would like to give presentations in our county to youth in order to deter them from using drugs and/or alcohol. They would like to give the presentations to juvenile drug court, schools, church groups and other youth organizations. The MRA presented to the board what they would propose to bring to the schools.

First presenter: Drug addicts don't always come from broken homes. He came from a good home and his parents have been married well over 40 years. Because of his strict and stable upbringing, he did not start using drugs until he was 21 years old. He had been a regional manager for the Golden Corral. He made over \$60,000 per year and had a nice home, cars and a daughter. He lost everything because of his drug use. He subsequently was arrested for armed robbery and spent 7 years in prison. He now has 45 months of sobriety and would like to take his message to the youth of Valencia County to keep them from going down the same path he went down.

Second presenter: He is currently in treatment and is 24 years old. He was arrested for DWI. He was taken to MRA in handcuffs and now has 1 year 2 months of sobriety. He states that each decision he made led him down the path to where he is. He said that the youth need to hear his message about the dangers of alcohol.

Third presenter: He is 41 years old and has used drugs since he was 15. His family members used drugs and he remembers seeing his uncle using heroin. Because of drugs, he abandoned his daughter when she was 13. He was homeless and his life was a mess. He was a drug addict for 27 years. He wants to let the kids know how terrible life is as an addict.

Fourth presenter: He said he has been in “the game” for 45 years and should be dead by now. He said that drug and alcohol use is prevalent among our youth. His mission in life now is to reach out to the youth. He spent his years as an addict lying, cheating and stealing. He was doing meth and cocaine. He was abandoned by his family and found camaraderie in the drug users. He said that substance abuse prevention starts in the home and that parents need to talk to their kids and know what is going on with their kids. He said that he now has hope because he is sober.

There was a period of questions and answers

- ❖ Teen Court presentation by Tasa Stromei: Tasa is working with Amber Chavez and Lindsey Lucero to get the teen court started. The work has required a lot of collaboration and in-kind donations. The teen court will be held the 1st Thursday of each month from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. March 4th is their anticipated start date. They have recruited teen attorneys and Peter Ortega is training them. The JPPO’s are screening kids for participation. Prior to starting the teen court, they will have mock trials to practice. She requested volunteers from the board. Tasa also asked for ideas for sanctions.
- ❖ Report on the Mentor Dinner and Mentor Project: Sharon Tenorio from Big Brothers, Big Sisters gave the update on how many mentors resulted from the mentor dinner and the subsequent news article. There are currently 11 youth in Valencia county who have been matched to a mentor. There are 7 volunteers in the process of being matched now. They have assigned a staff member to Valencia County to work with the mentoring program. She has been going to the schools to recruit kids to mentor. There are over 20 families now who have requested mentors.
- ❖ RFP update by Cynthia Ferrari: RFP will be issued mid to end of February, 2012.
- ❖ RAC update by Roberta Goodsen. RAC will now be in the Belen schools 2 days per week.
- ❖ ScOutreach update: Liza Bley updated the board. They have a lot of kids in the program here, over 40. They have taken on another staff member to work with Valencia County. They are working a lot with truancy kids.
- ❖ Subcommittee updates: were given by the chairs and co-chairs of the sub-committees:

Education and Prevention

Co-chairs Ruben Barreras (RBarreras@ltschools.net) and Richard Romero (rrromero1955@msn.com): Working on Teen Court at meetings. Next meeting Patricia Rael will give a presentation on Meth.

Health and Wellness/Community and Family

Chair Father Mundy (frrobert@mundy.com): Discussed mentor dinner and the upcoming mentor dinner to be held in March, 2012. We have requested Dion's to sponsor this dinner. There is the idea of having the mentors pay for their and their child's dinner also.

Juvenile Justice Case Processing

Co-chairs Pam Candelaria (PCandelaria@da.state.nm.us) and Lindsey Lucero (Lindsey.Lucero@state.nm.us): Did not meet last month.

Data and Sustainability

Chair Edward Raff (Ed.Raff@state.nm.us): Working on several projects including a DMC report. Looking for funding and collecting data.

Meeting adjourned