



JUNTOS Adults-at-Large Meeting
April 16, 2009
NNMC, Room AD 101

Vision: "JUNTOS, a youth-driven initiative to create a new future through unity, by embracing and valuing all people, communities, and cultures."

Time Started: 8:30

Time Ended: 10:30

In Attendance: Diana Martinez, Lori Heimdahl Gibson, Jenn Hanson Bartram, Donna Schroeder, Maurice de Segovia, Cedric Page, Nikki Harnish, Sharon Stover, Robert Gibson

ACTION ITEMS GENERATED:

<u>Item:</u>	<u>Person:</u>	<u>Date Completed:</u>
United Way grant summary	Linda	4/17/09

Welcome/Introductions/Announcements:

Maurice: Opening of the automotive department at Northern and dedication, Monday the 27th Immortal Technique to do a hip hop performance with a message (violence, drugs, etc). Also, April 24th - an after prom party at the Dream Catcher in Espanola (Lock-In style).

Diana: the Española Teen Center is averaging 22-56 per day.

Review and accept last adult minutes (1-13-09):

Accepted

Steering committee progress and review of activities:

Student Exchange:

Maurice – some comments: Believes JUNTOS should be advocating more community service, if you want to give a perspective for more than home life. Unify youth – youth need to become more conscious of racism and privilege. It would be an injustice for them to participate and not seek out the big issues. They (youth) have no idea why JUNTOS was created in the first place.

Cedric – we need to make individuals aware and approach the differences at a personal level. Provide them some skill in how to affect change for community service or capacity-building. The organization may provide more skills for similarity as well as the differences, emphasizing what community service means.

Maurice – They haven't created a path.

Lori – Sean Hall did address the big issues at the team-building workshop. Maurice did a presentation on social justice. One of the LA youth who participated in the first exchange at EVHS mentioned that there are military recruiters walking around the high school. She said she's never seen that at LAHS.

Diana – Is college really pushed at EVHS as a viable option for most students?

Maurice – Is all of this addressed in JUNTOS? The drop out rate here is not accurate. We're in a crisis in this area. The dialogue was cut off at the last SC meeting. I was talking about language issues.

Lori to Maurice – You brought in a lot of great information at the end of the meeting that was not on the agenda. We had a time crunch to get the EVHS youth back to their parents. Some LA youth expressed discomfort in reaction to your words and tone, which brought out the feelings of guilt about being white. These are the kids who are working to improve the situation. I'd like for us adults to be sensitive to every one of them. Johanna Eager (workshop on racism) said that we need to try to enter the dialogue with no shame, blame or guilt. (Notes from this workshop are on the web site: www.losalamosjjab.com/juntos.)

Sharon – This is part of the discussion. We need to realize that with this new connection with the kids, it's inherent.

Lori – It's really tough in the short meetings to get things done and go deep into issues. They want to have fun, too. We're walking on this tight rope. We're trying to create a safe space for them. We have to treat them like adults with the understanding that they may not yet have the capacity or experience to totally understand all this. In JUNTOS it's most important for the youth to talk authentically with other youth. In a recent talk with Johanna Eager, she said to ask, "What do people in the non-dominant cultures have to do when they go into the white world? What do people of color (and other subordinate groups) have to do to move into the white world to fit in and be okay, and what toll does it take on them?"

Cedric – I don't think we can address the issues in a one hour meeting. Parents should have addressed some of the issues with their kids. Maybe we need to start with resources, etc., for the parents.

Diana – It's true of both cities – we talked about some parents not being open to this dialogue. Part of my practicality is that we're dealing with a transient organization; people coming and going. But it's through the friendships and getting to know each other that change can occur.

Lori – This process is a slow dance.

Sharon – In LA, the students usually have to write a personal paper to get scholarships. The JUNTOS kids reinforced my commitment to JUNTOS by reading what they wrote and how JUNTOS has impacted their lives. There are successes out there that we don't even know about.

Lori – How do we get more adults from the Valley to come to these meetings? There are only two today. I don't think that JUNTOS can survive for the long haul if we don't have committed adults from all communities involved.

Maurice – How about a survey? (Discussion about next year doing a survey in the communities.)

Lori – Brandon from EVHS was at the basketball game in LA. He jumped up to cheer and a woman from LA, seated behind him asked him to sit down and literally grabbed him and ripped his shirt. I talked to him personally and got his story. The officer didn't say anything to the woman. I talked to Chief Torpy and he said that Brandon could talk to him. Brandon, because he was in JUNTOS, handled it very calmly. His mom was furious.

Sharon – I saw it – you need to talk to Vickie (LAHS Athletic Director).

Lori – How can we best deal with these issues to help the youth?

Sharon – The officers are just doing what they are told to do. Some good news. . . . The cheerleaders from LA and ESP got together and cheered together. The kids are getting it. . . . it's the parents who need more help. The adults have more heartburn than the kids.

Lori – I know of a student whose mother made a very derogatory remark to her about kids from the other town. We need to talk about these bigger issues and bring them to the table to see what we can do to make it better.

Cedric – We need to stay focused on the kids and bring kids together one-on-one to help them connect. And offer resources for the parents to help them work through their issues on things - they need help to educate the kids.

Diana – Let's set an agenda at the summit to deal with these issues.

Sharon – Give the youth the resources and see if there is any interest at all.

Nikki – Thinking about when I was a kid. . . if I went home and told my dad about a JUNTOS, he would have pulled me out of that program or club.

Lori – Mine too.

Maurice – On the 27th there is a speech about the struggles the kids in the area face.

Lori – Maurice, would you be able to be involved with the summit planning? Mr L. and Irwin have been telling me the same stuff. We all want to see some stuff related with the original beginning.

Maurice – I will try to make it to the Friday's meetings at EVHS.

Lori – The father of the three sisters who are participating in the student exchange will be at the Steering Committee meeting. He is concerned about his daughters' safety and very interested in JUNTOS.

Cedric – I can understand from a father's point of view.

Diana – It comes to a point when you need to just trust your children. It's an opportunity to put them in a host family with kids so the experience is better.

Russia Trip:

Lori and Joe Maestas had meetings with six businesses around Española – received a check for \$200 from NM Office Products towards the trip, and they are following up with Valley National Bank and the others. There will be 9 youth and 3 chaperones traveling to Russia. They are leaving July 2 and will be gone a little less than 3 weeks. They're going to come back and share what they learned, starting at the Youth Summit.

Total cost \$1,500 each for airfare, etc.

Gift ideas for host families:

JUNTOS sweatshirts and T-shirts; Harley stuff from Lori; A group of photo cards from ViewFinder.

Youth Summit:

Lori – El Rito is booked for 2 nights and three days, July 24-26. We'll start late afternoon on Friday and finish around 1 PM on Sunday. I'd love to have 15 from LAHS, 15 from EVHS and 15 from PVHS. We need to have the kids recruited before school is out. We could invite parents for a barbeque at noon on Sunday.

Joe Zamora and Liz DeWitt Vigil will be the facilitators. I would like to have Maurice and Irwin there, and also, do a large art project - but not so heavy.

Murals from last year's Youth Summit:

We should mix the art projects up within the communities.

Cedric – exchange UNM-LA's with LAHS and NNMC and EVHS.

Diana – This next time we can use material so it can be rolled up. Maybe even parachute material.

(Sharon – Sean Hall is coming first weekend of August for LAYL.)

Suggestion:

Review the evaluations from last year to regain information.

Lori – Let's work harder on the tough issues during this summit, like addressing racism, prejudice, and white guilt, and how to deal with parents (Cedric).

Youth Summit Planning Volunteers – Diana volunteered. Sharon wants to help. Nikki would like to come up a day at least.

Budget:

Sharon- Have the kids pay a \$25 fee for commitment to Summit, with a scholarship available.

Nikki – Have the kids from last year talk it up

Sharon – Have some of the kids that went on to college talk it up when they get home from school.

Sustainability:

2009-10 is the last year of the three-year grant from United Way grant. JJAB is in for the long term. Should we apply for another grant from United Way? Yes. . . see below.

We didn't do a 6-month report for United Way.

Donna – second or third notices have been sent. Breakdown in communication . . . will get right on it.

Diana – I'm always looking for grant ideas for the Y and I'll pass on any grant ideas.

Sharon – We have Katie and Marcie from JJAB, who have helped a lot (Jessica in Santa Fe).

Sharon – \$606.00, plus \$10,200 in the LA JJAB budgets to date.

Lori - What are the options for sustainability? Can the Y take over the program?

Diana - JJAB has brought us these programs that if we could get rid of large Y debts, yes.

Cedric - "Diversifying the revenue" – look at the school districts. Looking over the next 3-5 years. Maybe programming money from all the schools that JUNTOS serves.

United Way – We can reapply in next year’s grant cycle.

Sharon – Get United Way and go back to JJAB.

Nikki – Is there any corporate targeting going on now?

Sharon – Maybe we could sponsor a signature event – with the kids doing something like Black and Red Ball. Min Park of Central Avenue Grill will help with any organization. We could get on the Posse Shack schedule for a breakfast fundraiser.

Authentic Dialogue:

From Diana regarding Ben – the kids did not feel welcome at the Youth Summit and some of the kids were made fun of for the computers that were in the Teen Center at one of the JUNTOS meetings. Let’s be more sensitive towards the host.

Next adult meeting - Tuesday, July 14th at 8:30 – 10:30 at UNM-LA.

Minutes by Jenn Hanson Bartram viewfindernm@yahoo.com 505-672-3405