

Los Alamos Juvenile Justice Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 15, 2009
6:15 pm
651 Trinity
Los Alamos, NM

Present: Alan Kirk, Chuck Nye (alternate for Wayne Torpy), Michelangelo Lobato, Randy Smith, Vincent Chiravalle, Pat Casados, Jody Benson, Morrie Pongratz, Barb Marcille, Vicki Nelms, Megan Townsley, Grace Brown, Linda Anderman, Meagan Pfeffer, Janine Tulenko

Others: Cheryl Pongratz, Susan Mack, Sharon Stover, Debbie Gill

1. Welcome and Introductions: Chair Alan Kirk called the meeting to order at 6:15 pm. He welcomed everyone and everyone introduced themselves.

2. New Grade 6 – 7 Transition Project – Cheryl Pongratz, Los Alamos Family Council
Cheryl expressed excitement over a new LAFC project. JJAB has allocated \$5,000 for a “survey”. Since the Community Health Council already does a community wide needs assessment, LFAC and Emily McGay developed a research project involving teachers and students entitled Grade 6 – 7 Transition Project funded with a contract with JJAB. The project involves (1) a study of teacher identified student behavior which most likely will result in problems in student transition from 6th to 7th grade and (2) the development and presentation of a “ student summer services program offering tools to help students successfully manage grade transition”.

(1) After gaining approval from Supt. Mary McLeod and Assistant Supt. Kate Thomas and after a meeting with principals, Emily McGay of McGay Consulting, LLC will coordinate and report on focused interviews with LAPS district 6th grade teachers who can identify specific and general areas of concern (e.g., study habits, lack of parental support, falling behind academically, behavior issues, etc.) of identified students. The teachers will then give names of students who could benefit from the project to the principals. (McGay will never know the names of the students). During this aspect of the program, Emily will: assist in coordinating letters from principals to parents promoting a summer program for students; meet with Youth Mobilizers to verify observations from teachers concerning behavior that results in students dropping out; meet with Assets in Action Coordinator, Bernadette Lauritzen to ensure Assets incorporated into preliminary work process; prepare and write summary of interview results and give short oral report to JJAB.

(2) The Student Summer Services Program will be managed and implemented by Kelly Myers who will: design a six weeks summer 2009 program, meeting twice a week, two hours per session, for 25 students transitioning from 6th - 7th grade at facilities in White Rock and Los Alamos. Kelly will develop appropriate class content, schedule topics such as school success (assignments, homework, etc) personal organization, friends, peers/bullies, choices, getting involved, etc). A picnic will be offered during the 7th week for all White Rock and Los Alamos participants.

After approval from the Middle School principal, LAFC will develop and distribute follow-up evaluation forms for students who participated in the Services Program to teachers who are requested to report on behavior, attendance and grades during Semesters 1 and 2 of seventh grade. The students will be coded.

3. Approval of the Minutes - Wednesday, March 18, 2009. Pat Casados motioned to approve, Morrie seconded, unanimous approval.

4. Teen Brain Symposium Report – Susan Mack, Family Strengths Network (FSN)

Susan reported the information gathered through Symposium participant sign-in and evaluation forms. 129 people attended the symposium; 30 people attended who did not pre-register on the JJAB website. 79 people filled out evaluations. 41% of the 79 gave Abigail Baird an excellent rating. Only 58% of the attendants responded on the Mind Research Network.

Of those attending, 26 were parents, 24 professionals and 24 were both professionals and parents. Four teens participated; 61 of the respondents were residents of Los Alamos, 9 of Santa Fe, 7 of Rio Arriba County, 1 of Bernalillo and 2 of Taos. The evaluation also requested information on how people learned about the event which will be helpful in promoting future events. "Word of Mouth" was rated the highest.

FSN assembled a folder of information that was given freely to participants. Susan was thanked for all the work FSN did for the Symposium.

Regarding the video recording: The video will not be distributed. The SVS will only be viewed by people "within" the JJAB. The JJAB coordinator will organize this and inform people of where the videos will be available for viewing.

Judge Kirk thanked Susan Mack and Family Strengths Network and Debbie Gill for coordinating the event. The Board applauded.

5. FY2010 Proposed Budget - Judge Kirk requested that the Board review the FY2010 Proposed Budget. The financial subcommittee recommended approval. CYFD Funding: decreased by 20% across the state. County Funding: the budget hearing will be Thursday, April 23 at the Community Building at approximately 7:00 pm. Sharon Stover, JJAB Fiscal Manager, reports that the County Administrator has recommended funding continue at \$139,225. School Funding: The School's support will continue to be \$10,000. The School Board will meet on Thursday, April 23 at 6:00 pm at Pinion gym to approve. Chair Kirk requested that JJAB agency representatives please be present at these meetings. Vincent Chiravalle motioned to approve the proposed budget; Morrie seconded; unanimous approval.

6. Subcommittee Reports -

Rules – No report

Data and Evaluation – Sharon informed the Board that the report will be presented in May.

Davis Innovation is contracted to manage.

Advocacy – Georgina was not present

Finance – Alan Kirk

7. CYFD Grant & Prevention Program Update – All the information needed to compile the report was not available. Sharon will make certain everyone sees this report in a timely manner.

8. Board Area of Interest -

Chair Kirk informed the Board of an Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) FY-09 Recovery Act Local Youth Mentoring Initiative Grant proposal that Davis Innovations is developing to benefit youth in Los Alamos County. JJAB, UNM-LA, LACDC, Davis Innovations, Inc., Los Alamos Family Council, Los Alamos Public Schools and Los Alamos Teen Court hope to partner on implementing this grant.

Sharon Stover reported on a Continuum Planning and Development Group Meeting that met on Wednesday, April 1 at the CNM Workforce Training Center in Albuquerque. Sharon, Jack Ortega, Charlotte Andre (via telephone), Richard DeMella and Darrell Gasaway met because they felt a need to unify the strengths of the Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (JJAC) and Continuum sites. Sharon reports that the joint members of JJAC, Continuum board members, continuum site coordinators and staff represent a solid core of concerned citizens that are making positive changes in communities across the state. Collectively, the group can increase effectiveness by working together to continue to (1) increase local service capacity; (2) increase community awareness and involvement on youth issues; (3) continue to influence state and local policy stakeholders to change statutes, policies or

procedures to increase service capacity and (4) solidify program sustainability through continued expansion of federal, state and local funding. The meeting resulted in an outline presenting a recommended plan of action. Contact Sharon for more information.

In an effort to deal with tardiness and truancy issues, The Los Alamos School Foundation has made the suggestion that JJAB and the Foundation host a dinner for parents at the beginning of school to engage parents early in the school focus.

The \$5,000 check from State Farm was discussed. Morrie suggested we develop a letter to thank Lou Santoro and have all the Board Members sign at the next meeting.

The next Board meeting is on Wednesday, May 13, 2009, the second Wednesday of May NOT the third, 6:15 PM, Los Alamos School Board room.

9. Adjourn – Chair Kirk adjourned the meeting at 7:26 pm.