

## Minutes

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

Los Alamos School Board Room- 6:15 PM

**Present:** Alan Kirk, Morrie Pongratz, Rex Kilburn, Georgina Williams, Heather Teter, Darla Dover, Michaelangelo Lobato, Linda Anderman, Janine Tulenko, Sandy Warnock, Vicki Nelms, Wayne Torpy, Jody Benson, Jeannette Wallace, Pat Casados, Randy Smith, Barbara Marcille, Tommie Rodriguez

**Others:** Cheryl Pongratz, Katarina (KJ) Juarez, Marcie Mundt, Myles Gurule, Pete Sheehey, Sharon Stover, Debbie Gill, Molly Niday, Cindy Montoya, Katie Bridgewater

**1. Welcome** – Chair Alan Kirk welcomed members and visitors.

**2. Introductions** – Introductions were made by members and visitors.

**3. Approval of the Minutes** – The January 20, 2010 meeting minutes were approved. Pat Casados made the motion, Morrie Pongratz seconded (Morrie made comments on misspellings), unanimous approval.

**4. Davis Innovations (DI) – Evaluation and Best Practices Overview, Marcie Davis, DI President** – DI, an independent evaluation firm, is conducting a comprehensive assessment of LAJJAB CYFD supported programs. With funding afforded from the Northern New Mexico Health Grant Group (written by DI), DI is in the mid-point of a process of evaluating service delivery to Los Alamos County. Marcie presented an overview of the initiative, reporting that this is the second year of the grant and that DI has been meeting with service providers and gathering information. She commented that the findings are “pretty positive”. DI has identified best practices and effective service delivery methods and models in science-based prevention initiatives. The following CYFD funded programs are being evaluated: Diversion Program Alcohol/Substance Abuse and Delinquency, Girls Circle, Envision Your Future for Boys, Restorative Justice, Family Solutions, and Life Skills Training. Please contact Marcie if you have questions at [mdavis@davisinnovates.com](mailto:mdavis@davisinnovates.com).

**5. United Way of Northern New Mexico – Donna Schroeder, Executive Director**

The UWNM wants to “tackle the problems facing our communities” and needs volunteers for:

- (1) A Forum Group – a one time forum in a discussion of needs or unmet needs in Los Alamos and Rio Arriba counties. The forum meets on Saturday, April 24 from 9:00 am – 1:00 PM at UNM-LA, Building 2 in the lecture hall.
- (2) An Allocation Panel – Members are needed to attend Allocation Hearings and assisting in funding decisions. Member agencies appear before the Allocation Panel one a year (usually in the Spring).
- (3) Grant Program Reviewers – Responsible for reading and scoring grant proposals. The Grant Review Team meets once in the Fall to prioritize proposals and submit funding recommendation to the Board of Trustees.
- (4) Campaign Volunteer – Each year UWNM runs the largest fund raising campaign in the region and needs volunteers.

Contact Donna at (505) 662 – 0800 or email at nnmlauw@vla.com.

**6. Truancy – Rex Kilburn, Assistant Principal, Los Alamos Middle School and Cindy Montoya, Assistant Principal, Los Alamos High School** – Rex Kilburn thanked Chair Alan Kirk for the JJAB funding that began the Los Alamos Middle School Truancy Program in January, 2010.

There have been several approaches to truancy in use at the LAHS with a program that began in November of 2009. The current approach in both the HS and MS includes:

- setting up a system to better track attendance using existing tools (Power School)
- providing personnel, Ms. Marsha Mundt, to make very early contact with students after first or second unexcused absence and follow up with detention, talking with parents or talking with teachers.
- creating a single point for tracking students to counselor, attendance review board and referral to diversion program
- providing information to assigned administrator or staff who are not taking, or correctly taking attendance
- developing a positive system for a culture of regular school attendance with built in rewards versus only consequences

With the current truancy program, Marcia Mundt keeps a daily log of all contacts so she, school administrators and counselors are able to follow individual student progress. Cindy Montoya reports that this approach to truancy has made a difference. Cindy commented that Marsha has created a “youthful, intelligence connection.” Detention is making a difference with the boys. The HS needs proactive solutions instead of just reactive solutions.

Marsha contracts with Los Alamos Family Council. Cheryl Pongratz praised Marsha as “unbelievable”. Marsha has seen 150 kids and 99 of the kids have not repeated. Cheryl commented, “It makes a big difference to have someone doing this. There is not enough time for staff to deal with truancy issues.”

To continue this work, an additional \$14,000 must be approved for the Truancy Program. Pat Casados made a motion that the JJAB approve \$14,000 to be expended for the Truancy Program for the period of February 1, 2010 to May 31, 2010. Morrie Pongratz seconded. Unanimous approval.

Morrie commented that the County needs to “step up” and provide for a “truancy officer”. Chief Torpy stressed that JJAB members should be present at the County Budget hearings.

## **7. Reports from Agencies**

**YMCA** – Executive Director Linda Daly could not attend this evening's meeting due to a conflict with another meeting. Youth Mobilizers Katarina (KJ) Juarez and Myles Gurule made a report on YMCA JJAB funded activities: The YM have completed fifty peer to peer interviews and the report will be done by the next JJAB meeting (April 21). Josh and Emi are competing a second survey regarding library use by youth. A Senior Sidekick meeting with freshmen and seniors is coming up soon. The YM kids are trying to get more students involved with *Topper Talk*. On Saturday, March 13, JUNTOS coordinated a field trip to the Anne Frank Exhibit in Albuquerque. LAYL: The adult leaders are planning graduation on April 25. The LAYL Wild Day is scheduled for Saturday, April 24. There was a CAG dance on March 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Los Alamos Family Council** – Cheryl reported that the Community Monitoring program that Molly Niday is responsible for is going along. Because of work that JJAB has done, there is no longer a need for JCC (Juvenile Community Corrections) program. The Community

Monitoring program is set up on an individual basis because very few Los Alamos kids get involved in this program.

**Family Strengths Network** – Susan Mack was unable to attend the meeting, however, Georgina Williams gave information on the Search Institute Public Education event on May 11. Dr. Peter Benson will speak to school administrators and the public.

**Los Alamos Commerce and Development Corporation** – Bernadette Lauritzen could not attend because of a conflict with another meeting. However, Chair Kirk mentioned a copy of a letter from LAPS Supt., Dr. Gene Schmidt commenting on the “importance of using research-based models which could lead to improved student behavior”. Dr. Schmidt has “gained an appreciation for the service that (Bernadette Lauritzen and Georgina Williams) provide for our community and how it (40 Development Assets) was making a difference in the lives of our children”.

**8. CYFD Grant & Prevention Program Update** – Sharon reported that there is no information on the status of CHFDF funding.

**9. Board Areas of Interest -**

Morrie reported that the DWI Planning Council has \$20,000 available for prevention and/or treatment. Please give ideas for use of the money to the Judge, Katie Bridgewater (DWI Chair) or Morrie.

Sharon Stover made the suggestion that the JJAB develop support for a county youth center . JJAB could fill out a Capitol Improvement Project (CIP) application for a youth center. She requested that the coordinator ask Steve Lynn or Rick Bohn to attend the next JJAB meeting to give the board information on the CIP process.

**10. Next Meeting Date** – The next regular board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 21, 2010 at 6:15 PM in the School Board room at 651 Trinity Drive.

**11. Adjourn** – Chair Kirk adjourned the meeting at 7:30 PM.

Submitted by Debbie Gill