

JJAB Minutes

Wednesday, September 21, 2011
Camino Entrada, Pajarito Cliffs Site
Building 1
Los Alamos, NM
6:15 PM

Board Members Present: Alan Kirk, Morrie Pongratz, Michelangelo Lobato, Janine Tulenko, Mike Wismer, Kay Willerton, Lisa Zuhn, Tommy Rodriguez, Megan Pfeffer, Jin Park, Kelley Kramer, Anne Hayes Egan, Dave Foster, Paul Cook, Linda Anderman

Others: Sharon Marinuzzi, Kristine Coblenz, Jane Johnson, Jenn Bartram, Susan Mack, Cheryl Pongratz, Lori Heimdahl Gibson, Sheldon Simpson, Jordan Redmond, Celia Naar, Kevin Moeller

- 1. Welcome** – Chair Alan Kirk welcomed everyone at 6:15 PM.
- 2. Introductions** – Introductions were made by members and visitors. Alan welcomed new board members Kay Willerton, Lisa Zuhn, Jin Park, Paul Cook, and Kelley Kramer.
- 3. Approval of Minutes** – Minutes for the August 2011 meeting were approved; Michelangelo Lobato motioned for approval; Morrie Pongratz seconded the motion.

4. Presentations:

Kevin Moeller and Celia Naar, Wilderness Program Managers, Santa Fe Mountain Center – The Santa Fe Mountain Center (SFMC) has provided experiential education and activities for youth / underserved populations for approximately 35 years. Experiential education is learning by doing. The center uses a variety of experiential tools, including icebreaker and energizer games, problem solving activities, low and high ropes challenges, hiking, rock climbing, rappelling, rafting, camping, and youth / community organizing.

The SFMC works with referring agencies to create programs that are designed specifically for each participant group. Celia Naar from SFMC explained that the Center typically provides a sequence of single day programs which begin by creating a safe environment and building community before providing a variety of increasingly challenging adventure activities and opportunities for personal growth. She further emphasized that adventure activities accelerate the therapeutic process for participating individuals. SFMC incorporates local resources (such as areas in the Jemez for Los Alamos participants) and they provide programming at schools.

SFMC has previously provided programming for the Los Alamos Girl's Circle, Juntos, and for juveniles who have been referred for programs by the JPO. Tommy Rodriguez, Jenn Bartram, and Kelley Kramer all shared their positive experiences with SFMC programs. The SFMC website is www.santafemc.org and Kevin Moeller can be reached at kevin@santafemc.org or (505) 983-6158 ext. 28.

Morrie Pongratz (PRIDE Survey) – Morrie presented and summarized the results of the recent PRIDE survey. The discussion focused on different measures of risk-taking behaviors. Key findings showed that alcohol and marijuana use by juveniles (major risk-taking behaviors) increased during the transition from 8th to 9th grades. Additionally, cross correlations showed that certain observable behaviors (i.e. - smoking and skipping school) correlated to self-destructive or "out of sight" behaviors (such as depression, suicide, and sexual activity). Getting in trouble at home or in school, truancy, and smoking were all correlated to risk-taking behaviors. A key correlation to minimizing risk-taking behaviors appeared to be "engaged parenting" and supervision.

5. Reports from Agencies and Programs –

Teen Center CIP Process – Alan encouraged members to become active in the early planning and advocacy for the Teen Center. He told members that a survey was being conducted for teen input and that the community architects planned to meet in the Speech Theater at LAHS on September 22, 2011 at 11:15 for input from teens. He also advised that all the stakeholders were invited to meet at 12:00 in the LAHS Principal's Office to further discuss planning / location options. Alan requested assistance from members in coordinating and advocating for the project and maintaining the pulse of the CIP committee and Council.

Mike Wismer explained that the Council meeting on September 20, 2011 was meant to be a study session for addressing current CIP projects. He further explained that the County is in the fifth year of the CIP process and that the Council is currently tasked with prioritizing these projects. Mike shared that he would like to see infrastructure projects removed from the CIP process so they are not in competition with new projects. As it stands in the current cycle, Phase I projects are likely to be 5 years away from breaking ground.

For Phase II, Alan would like to see a sub-committee formed to put together a comprehensive package with a solid proposal for the site location. As a sponsoring agency, the JJAB needs to step up and garner community support. Anyone who would be interested, please contact the JJAB coordinators.

Jin Park / Seed Ball Event – Jin reported a fantastic response to the "seed ball flash mob!" The event was a great success with a varied range of civic and community participants. Jin thanked the JJAB for collecting donations for the event (approximately \$400 was donated by individuals in the community), while \$250 was donated by the JJAB for the materials used.

Los Alamos Family Council – Cheryl Pongratz reported that Family Council had not received substance abuse clients recently, but that the number of delinquency clients had increased. She also reported that Jane Johnson and Cheryl Milgrim were working hard on the truancy issue at LAHS; they are looking at truancy as a "gateway" to other things. The first two Saturday School sessions at the high school were well attended and the program is off to a good start. One Restorative Justice circle was completed in July and two new cases were referred in August and September. The Community Monitoring program is currently overseeing eight juveniles (the highest number of juveniles that Family Council has had on probation since 2004). A Parents of Teens Support Group is being lead by Elizabeth Grant on Wednesday nights , and a Life Skills and a diversion course are also being offered. Cheryl

reminded everyone that parents can refer students to all of the Family Council programs with the exception of Restorative Justice and Teen Court.

YMCA / Teen Center - Michelangelo Lobato reported that the Teen Center attendance has doubled from last year. There have been two 5th Quarters held at the Center with over 100 students attending each event. Janine Tulenko shared concerns that were voiced by parents of younger children impacted by the negative behaviors of students in the Teen Center parking lot. Michelangelo provided his cell phone (500-5099) for all concerned parents to contact him.

Family Strengths Network - Susan Mack reported that "Families in Action" began on September 20, 2011. There are currently three families participating (8 people) and the group can accommodate up to six or seven families if there are others interested. Individuals can also sign up for Envision Your Future (EYF) and Girl's Circle on-line.

6. Board Retreat - Thursday, October 20th, 12:00 - 4:00 pm; Trinity on the Hill Church
"Making the Connection: Engaging and Communicating with Youth"

7. Board Areas of Interest – The CYFD funding amendment has been signed. The County prevention grant request appeal has been filed. The State Farm Youth Advisory grant check for \$62,300 was presented to Stephanie Krantz for the "Youth Food Project" at the Los Alamos Middle School. Governor Martinez recently appointed Sharon Stover to the Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (JJAC) which serves as the oversight council for CYFD. The Los Alamos Community Health Council will be working on an updated Health Profile for future distribution.

8. Next Meeting Date: November 9, 2011, Building 1, Camino Entrada, Pajarito Cliffs, Los Alamos

9. Adjourn – Chair Kirk adjourned the meeting at 7:35 pm.

Alan Kirk, Chair JJAB

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