

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A JUVENILE JUSTICE ADVISORY BOARD

WHEREAS on Thursday, October 2, 2003, a number of community leaders met at the invitation of the Los Alamos Community Health Council and the Los Alamos Police Department for a "Youth Issues Forum" facilitated by Innovations in Justice, and

WHEREAS the participants learned of youth issues including a lack of activities, truancy, substance abuse, teenage sexual activity, violence and bullying, academic pressures, and suicide through presentations on the Los Alamos County Health Profile and the Los Alamos Public Schools PRIDE Survey, and

WHEREAS through a panel presentation by Municipal Judge Alan Kirk, Richard Lindahl from Children, Youth, and Families, Police Captain Marla Brooks, and Police Chief Rich Melton, the participants learned that the current reality of our juvenile justice system is that it lacks local resources to allow for participation in the juvenile justice process, and

WHEREAS District Court Judge Barbara Vigil spoke of the seriousness and gravity of some recent delinquent acts committed in Los Alamos, mental health issues she sees in Los Alamos, and of the Children's Court's willingness to permit and facilitate some local participation of the juvenile justice process provided that a Juvenile Justice Advisory Board be established, and

WHEREAS the Innovations in Justice personnel described and demonstrated the foundational principles of Restorative Justice, and

WHEREAS the Los Alamos County Council has approved a vision statement guiding principle that reads, "Los Alamos is a unique combination of science and setting. We will preserve our safe, small town atmosphere, the natural surroundings, and our past. We prize excellent schools, outdoor recreation, and the relaxed pace of life where shopkeepers and neighbors know your name. We will protect these treasures even while we envision changes that will add to our quality of life," and

WHEREAS committees were formed to create action plans for implementing each Comprehensive Plan vision statement and the committee creating the action plan for the "Enhance Youth Activities" vision statement stated, "We will engage young people in planning and delivering more activities and programs for kids and teens including intergenerational activities," and

WHEREAS the Los Alamos Public School's Educational Plan for Student Success (EPSS) is a twelve-year plan designed to positively influence student performance in the areas of curriculum, assessment/accountability, parent and community involvement, technology, student attendance/dropout rate, and school safety and

WHEREAS the Los Alamos Public Schools have certified diagnosticians who provide educational diagnosis for students with special learning and/or behavioral needs and special classes are available for students who are gifted or who have learning disabilities, behavioral disorders, mental or physical handicaps and multiple disabilities, for students with visual and hearing impairments, and speech/language impairment, and

WHEREAS the Los Alamos Public Schools have fulltime, licensed school nurses available at each building to assist students and parents with special health problems, health screening, and consultations. To provide additional assistance to students, each school has trained school counselors and several schools have Behavior Intervention Programs. School social work services are also available at each site, and

WHEREAS the School of Choice at the High School is an alternative program in which at-risk students work at their own pace, work cooperatively, and regularly participate in group discussions, and

WHEREAS Los Alamos has a number of excellent social service agencies, a faith community, and a medical community all well qualified to provide assistance to our youth,

NOW THEREFORE, the Los Alamos Juvenile Justice Advisory Board is created by joint action of the Los Alamos County Council and the Los Alamos School Board to develop a comprehensive strategic plan for a continuum of youth services addressing prevention, early intervention, and graduated sanctions.

The Los Alamos Juvenile Justice Advisory Board shall include representatives from and nominated by the District Court, the District Attorney's Office, the Juvenile Justice and Parole Office, the Children, Youth, and Families Department, a legislator representing Los Alamos, the Municipal and Magistrate Courts, the Los Alamos County Council, the Los Alamos County Police and Recreation Departments, the Los Alamos Public Schools and the Los Alamos Public Schools Board of Education, the Los Alamos Community Health Council, the Los Alamos National Laboratory, the medical community (nominated by the LAMC Board of Directors), parents (nominated by the Family Strengths Network and the District Parent Council), youth (nominated by the secondary Student Councils and Natural Helpers), seniors (nominated by LARSO), the Chamber of Commerce, UNM-LA, the faith community (nominated by the Ministerial Alliance), and the media (KRSN and the Monitor).

These representatives may develop By-laws and subcommittees as they deem appropriate. Through regular reports to the County Council and the School Board, the Los Alamos Juvenile Justice Advisory Board is to provide the community with:

1. Public awareness of youth issues;
2. Development of strategies to ensure a rapid response to youth in crisis;
3. Data collection and analysis to determine needs and a risk factor profile;

4. A resource assessment and identification of the service gaps in the community;
5. A prioritization of services;
6. Education for the community on the Graduated Sanctions Model;
7. Coordination of agency/department policies to enhance the service continuum;
8. Promotion of the use of science-based service delivery models.

The mission of the Los Alamos Juvenile Justice Advisory Board shall be to know where the juvenile justice system needs support so as to engage the community in solutions and to galvanize community resources for prevention and immediate intervention, thereby improving the lives of our youth, their chances for success, and building a healthier community.

The vision of the Los Alamos Juvenile Justice Advisory Board shall be to support the success of Los Alamos youth through community and family.

The Los Alamos Juvenile Justice Advisory Board shall follow the guiding principles described in *The Guide for Implementing the Comprehensive Strategy for Serious, Violent, and Chronic Juvenile Offenders* (U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention) to support the development of the Comprehensive Strategy Plan. These principles assist in the development of specific strategies for creating collaborators among core institutions and soliciting the participation of the community.

The guiding principles are listed below:

- Strengthening the family in its primary responsibility to instill moral values and provide guidance and support to children.
- Supporting core institutions (schools, churches, and youth service organizations) in their roles to develop capable, mature, and responsible youth.
- Promoting delinquency prevention as the most cost-effective approach to reducing juvenile delinquency.
- Intervening immediately and effectively when delinquent behavior first occurs to prevent delinquent offenders from becoming chronic offenders from progressively committing more serious and violent crimes.
- Establishing a system of graduated sanctions that holds each juvenile offender accountable, protects public safety, and provides programs and services that meet identified treatment needs.
- Identifying and controlling the small percent of serious, violent, and chronic juvenile offenders who commit the majority of juvenile felony-level offenses.

The Los Alamos Juvenile Justice Advisory Board shall employ the following strategies:

- **Prevention:** Programs and resources that address community, family, and individual risk factors, and enhance protective factors that will minimize the risk of delinquent behavior.
- **Intervention:** Programs and resources that provide immediate, swift responses within the community for youth exhibiting delinquent behavior before they enter the Criminal Justice System.
- **Graduated Sanctions:** Programs and resources that encompass the entire continuum of sanctions for youth and their families from community service to detention. These programs and resources provide for prevention, intervention, supervision, treatment, and detention in a juvenile detention facility.
- **Collaboration:** Strong working relationships between organizations, institutions, and individuals (public/private as well as government/community) to maximize resources and share information in support of services and programs for youth.
- **Data Sharing:** Develop and strengthen protocols and information infrastructure that allow data sharing between collaborative agencies to better serve youth and their families while maintaining legally mandated confidentiality.