

Santa Fe County Criminal Coordinating Council Meeting Minutes

From: Tyra J. Chavez

Date: August 20, 2020

Re: July 29, 2020 Meeting

1. Call to Order

Michael Nunez called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m.

2. Introductions

Michael Nunez thanked everyone for attending today. All of the meeting attendees introduced themselves and their entity.

3. Council Changes Moving Forward (Chair & Chief Judge)

Michael Nunez began the meeting by discussing how the council was formed by the New Mexico Supreme Court and supported by the New Mexico Legislature. He stated that this is the first meeting this year, and that the meetings would be different moving forward stating that each county has their own needs. He stated that previously the committee met as one large group, but moving forward, each county would meet as a sub-committee and at the end of the year, the committee would meet all together as one. He stated that each sub-committee would meet monthly and have working groups within, which would work together for 90 days. Mr. Nunez stated that the working groups would move forward with the recommendations that the committee discusses, which will have a great impact on the First Judicial District and possibly statewide, if applicable, adding that all ideas and concerns are welcome. He noted that a webpage has been created for the council on the First Judicial District Court website, which will soon include reports, agendas, meeting minutes, recommendations, etc.

Michael Nunez stated that the first issue that will be discussed, as a working committee will be preliminary hearings, and that the working group will include the district attorney, public defender, magistrate court, district court (Michael Nunez), and law enforcement.

6. Check-Ins – Top 3 Issues to Address as a Sub-Committee and Any Ideas to Improve or Resolve (Discussion was out of agenda order.)

Michael Nunez stated that he would like each of the meeting attendees to bring up three pressing issues, which will guide the formations of the other working groups.

Anisa Griego Quintana stated that she would like to have suitable connections for treatment providers and overall better communication with everyone.

Kent Walquist with the DA's office agreed and stated that connections with treatments providers is needed, including what they are and how to get in. He also felt discovery needs to be addressed but is not too sure if this is something the council can address. Mary Carmack-Altswies did not have anything to add.

Julie Ball stated that in addition to the issues mentioned she would like to see an initiative for both behavioral and mental health, and increased resources for the jail. She also stated she would like to see a decrease in victimless crimes in district court and have them go a behavioral health route, which would better resources. She would also like to see increased and better resources to the jails to provide better mental and behavioral health rather than just a warehouse with no treatment.

Angelique Herrera thanked everyone at the district attorney's office, she stated that they have both been working well together. She also stated that she heard from Judge Segura and he is unable to attend today's meeting.

Ben Baur stated that he would like to emphasize the definite budget cuts for FY22 and stated that the available resources will be used on cases that need to be prosecuted.

Jesse Cirolia stated that she would like to see better treatment options and communication coordination among the different treatment providers. She would also like to see a decrease in the number of people in jail. She wants to maintain awareness to domestic violence, the survivors, and families.

Andrea Verswijver stated that she agrees with Jesse, there has been an increase in domestic violence, with cases being more violent and dangerous, and at times there are conflicting orders because there are two different judges assigned to the case (DV and CR) and one does not know what has occurred in the other case.

Sophie Andar stated she would like to see discovery discussed as well.

Kate Field stated that she would like to see better interagency communication and navigation. In addition better access to behavioral health treatment and how to respond to behavioral health issues.

Dr. Michael Debernardi stated that he would like to see better access to mental health services and ongoing outreach assistance to the community, in addition to enhanced access to medication-assisted treatment.

The Santa Fe County Sheriff's Office (Major Gonzales, Undersheriff Johnson) stated that they have no issues that they would like to see addressed at this time.

The Santa Fe Police Department (Ben Valdez) stated they would like to have better resources for treatment, better communication and better discovery practices including the ability for digital media, like photos. They would like to see a system or software that can be used by all entities. Michael Nunez stated that part of the committee's responsibilities is to seek additional funding if needed, for software, as mentioned. Angelique Herrera stated that having all of the agencies on the same platform would be ideal, and mentioned that the state police has software and that their digital discovery cannot be opened.

Jon Fischer stated that better treatment resources is needed in addition to a web-based information hub, which should include available treatment services (waitlist, openings, treatment available, etc.).

Chief Judge Mary Marlowe Sommer stated that she would like to see discussion regarding the immediate future due to COVID and what to do with the homeless in Santa Fe. She would like to see homelessness addressed, as many have mental health issues and/or are addicted to drugs, and that it cannot just be LifeLink as a place of referral. She would like to see a PACT program initiative and wants to assure that the juvenile population is not forgotten about among all the mentioned issues.

Sophie Andar stated she sent some resources to all in the chat, which would assist in seeing such things as open beds statewide, shelter availability, and better treatment solutions; she stated that some training within the portal(s) is required. She would like to see a better interpretation of care due to COVID. She would like to have domestic violence, child abuse and human trafficking on the forefront. She also stated that there is a lack of medicated-assisted treatment in the jail and would like to see addictions in jail discussed as well.

Jennifer Romero emphasized the need for providing basic needs to individuals, so that mental health treatment is attainable; basic navigation and full support that they get the help that they need and that it is feasible for them.

Deb Newman praised Sophie for her ideas. She too would like to see such issued pushed at the forefront. She would like to see victims being accepted and not scared to have a voice.

Warden Derek Williams stated there are not issues at this time, adding that things are running smooth.

Kyra Ochoa stated that she would like to see a coordination of communication around available resources. She also stated there is a housing need. Lastly, she stated she would like to see victimless cases diverted from the court system.

Michael Nunez thanked everyone for sharing their top issues and wants to be able to establish a guide of who does what and why. He stated that the website will include updates and wants to see increased coordination among all the attendees. He stated he will get the working groups formed so that they can get started.

4. Future Meetings

Michael Nunez stated that the SFCJLCC would meet the fourth Tuesday of every month at 12:00 noon.

5. NM Sentencing Commission Data Integration Grant Update

Michael Nunez stated that the council did receive a grant; \$90,000 for Santa Fe and \$25,000 or \$20,000 went to Los Alamos, he stated that the project was nearing completion. He stated that funds for Santa Fe is being used towards a dashboard for the jail to provide information

through the dashboard and also for an arrest notification system and that if funds remain they will be used towards hopefully improving the efficiency of transports

7. Announcements

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:02 p.m. The next meetings is scheduled for August 25, 2020 at 12:00 noon.