

Eighth Judicial District Criminal Justice Coordinating Council

Meeting Minutes

September 10, 2020

8:30 AM

Via Google Meet

1. Call to Order: 8:35 AM; roll call.
2. Approval of Minutes from June 25, 2020 meeting – approved unanimous, with correction of name of Interim TCADC Warden Leroy Vigil.
3. Approval of Agenda for September 10, 2020 meeting of the TADC – approved unanimous.
4. Reassignment of Committee Chairperson
 - i. Aleksandar Kostich was named Committee Chairperson, Judge Pena was named the Vice Chairperson, Anita Manning remains the Secretary;
 - ii. Judge Pena will be discussing the creation of a CJCC in Colfax/Union counties with Judge Kennelly.
5. Covid-19 and the Courts
 - i. Travel restrictions have been lifted for employees for the states that currently have low infection rates;
 - ii. Taos County held its first jury trial since the COVID-19 on September 8, 2020. The Supreme Court has approved Judge Chavez’s plan to reinstate jury trials with all proper precautions being taken to prevent the spread of COVID-19;
 - iii. All Magistrate bench trials are held remotely;
 - iv. All District and Magistrate jury trials are held in the District Courtroom A;
 - v. Eighty (80) potential jurors were called in with thirty-six (36) reporting;
 - vi. No jury trials are being held in Colfax County at this time, all are heard in Raton;
 - vii. Unless an exception has been permitted by the Supreme Court and Judge Chavez no in-person hearings (except jury trials) are permitted at this time;
 - viii. Taos County Adult Detention Center (TCADC) is reporting that they only have one (1) computer for all four (4) courts and they have contacted IT for another computer to

accommodate all the scheduled hearings. HCAP is currently helping with scheduled hearings;

- ix. Judge Chavez and the TCAA are currently working to ensure that there are no further conflicts in the scheduling of hearings;
- x. TCADC reports that the intake procedure of inmates includes all COVID-19 precautions, and when possible, inmates who are booked on the same day into TCADC are housed together. All pods were full, and detainees are being held in the booking area;
- xi. Judge Shannon recommended that the TCADC could call Judge's about releasing detainees. Traffic and other discretionary arrests should be processed and released exponentially;
- xii. TCADC reports that the Department of Health had implemented a 14-day quarantine of detainees, but due to space issues TCADC has a customized plan to test for COVID-19 upon booking and quarantine procedures;
- xiii. Mr. Wentz reported that Municipal Court was holding in person appearances and he would like to have these done virtually, at the TCADC convenience, and recommended that all courts need to meet to work out the schedules.

6. Creation of a Victims Services Subcommittee

- i. Aleksander Kostich opposed to the recommendation. Judge Shannon stated he added this item to the agenda after Judge Blankenhorn had an interest in this subcommittee to streamline counseling, shelter etc. to victims and serving as the Chairperson. All interested persons are to contact Judge Blankenhorn. It was noted that the District Attorney's office currently has two (2) victim advocates. HCAP has an outreach specialist who assists with Medicaid, food stamps, and housing. Malinda Williams reported that the CAV has list of resources available to victims. The help desk located in the Courthouse is available for assistance on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday's from 11:30 AM – 3:30 PM with a paralegal available to assist;
- ii. Judge Shannon agreed that the Courts must maintain a distance and neutrality but can play a role;
- iii. Motion was approved to create a Victims Services Subcommittee. Motion was approved to have Judge Blankenhorn serve as Chairperson of the Victims Services

Subcommittee. Malinda Williams suggested a link be made to the Taos Health Council.

7. Public/Open Comment

- i. An Amnesty/Safe Surrender day should be held virtually this year. Judge Shannon stated a separate meeting should be held in this matter. Aleksander Kostich stated he was available to meet and plan this event. Sherriff Hogrefe reported that it is necessary to reduce the warrant numbers in Taos County and his office would be involved to a moderate degree in the event;
 - ii. Motion was passed to create a committee on an Amnesty/ Safe Surrender virtual program.
8. Schedule next meeting of the Pretrial Services Subcommittee day/time/place -
The next Pre-Trial Services meeting is scheduled for October 23, 2020 at 2:00 PM.;
Aleksander Kostich will email invitees.
9. Schedule next CJCC meeting: date time and place -The Taos Council will meet on
December 17,2020, time, and place TBD.
10. Adjourned at 9:42 AM.

If you are an individual with a disability who is in need of a reader, amplifier, qualified sign language interpreter, or any other form of auxiliary aid or service to attend or participate in the meeting, contact the Taos County Administration Office located at 105 Albright Street, Suite G, Taos, New Mexico as soon as possible or call (575) 737-6300.