

**Eighth Judicial District Criminal Justice Coordinating Council**

Meeting Minutes

December 17, 2020

9:00 AM

Via Google Meet

- 1. Call to Order:** 9:05 AM; roll call.
- 2. Approval of agenda for December 17, 2020 meeting of the TADC** – approved unanimous.
- 3. Approval of minutes from September 10, 2020** – approved unanimous.
- 4. COVID-19 Update from Judge Chavez**
  - i. Jury trials are set to resume February 1, 2021, attempting to resolve cases when possible to adjust for the backlog;
  - ii. Judge Pena announced that the Springer courthouse is currently closed due to three (3) positive COVID-19 cases there;
  - iii. Judge Chavez stated that the medically vulnerable should be receiving the COVID-19 vaccine first;
  - iv. Public Defender Aleksandar Kostich inquired about the Supreme Court orders and the county-by-county assessment of cases, Judge Shannon reiterated that the Supreme Court makes all decisions, the restart of jury trials may be postponed again, and it is necessary for the District Attorney and Public Defenders offices to come together to decide priority, the question was raised of only one courtroom in Taos, and the ability to hear the number of backlogged cases once it is opened.
- 5. Covid-19 and the Taos Detention Center**
  - i. Judge Blankenhorn has begun implementing a summons/personal data form issued at the TCADC for detainees to be released with the understanding that they are to report to court;
  - ii. Leroy Vigil reports zero positive COVID-19 cases within the facility, detainees are tested as soon as possible and quarantined for 14 days, proper precautions being taken to prevent the spread of COVID-19;

- iii. Mr. Vigil reports that IT has set up more computers for visitations and expressed gratitude to HCAP for their invaluable assistance during the pandemic, new procedures for attorney visits have been sent for review;
- iv. The TCADC continues to be understaffed and County Commissioner Brent Jaramillo discussed the many advertising avenues being utilized for open positions, an increase in starting wage and the impact on the budget is to be addressed this week;
- v. There has been no discussion about availability of COVID-19 vaccine within the facility, a list of officers who would like the vaccine has been sent to Holy Cross Hospital;
- vi. Mr. Jaramillo expressed the difficulty for TCADC to scan and email documents to Magistrate court due to lack of staff;
- vii. Magistrate Court Manager, Vicki Vigil stated that the Magistrate Court emails Conditions of Release to the TCADC and HCAP immediately after a hearing is concluded;
- viii. Mr. Jaramillo inquired as to the moving of long-term inmates through the system, he inquired if it was possible to move them to DOC, Mr. Kostich responded that it is hard to do while trials are on hold, detainees are being held on Pre-Trial Detention Orders and the system is stymied by the pandemic;
- ix. Judge Pena reported that in the Colfax Magistrate Court every effort is being made to move detainees from the jail, many repeat offenders cycling through on regular basis;

**6. Law Office of the Public Defender and Eighth Judicial District Attorney introductions**

- i. Aleksandar Kostish introduced the newest member of the Public Defenders Office, Mr. Benjamin Burke, who was in attendance, he will be handling the Magistrate court docket;
- ii. Due to time constraints, Angela Macdonald of the District Attorney's office was unable to introduce the new staff at that office; Norman Wheeler, Abby Brown, and Consuelo Garcia have joined the staff.

**7. Public/Open Comment**

- i. Christ Arguello from HCAP has asked the CJCC to start a task force for court assisted outpatient treatment for Behavioral Health stating the recidivism rate is high and an

urgent need must be addressed as soon as possible; Grant funding is available with a deadline of January 24, 2021 for submissions;

- ii. Judge Chavez reported that the Mental Health Summit was postponed and is rescheduled for October 2021; treatment courts start with volunteers, connecting the re-offenders who have mental health issues to treatment is a goal that hopefully will be reached by the end of 2021, connecting with the Taos Pueblo Wellness Court is a possible next step, the Raton CJCC is in the process of forming a sub committee devoted to Behavioral Health and we will reach out to those members also.

**8. Schedule next CJCC meeting: date time and place** The Taos Council will meet on March 18, 2021, time, and place TBD.

**9. Adjourned at 10:04 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.